# ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, the Fine Arts, Music and the Drama.

No. 3610.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1897.

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### SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1897.

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#### LITERATURE

DRAMA-THE WEEK; GOSSIP

The Works of Lord Byron. Edited by William Ernest Henley .- Letters, 1804-1813. (Heinemann.)

THERE is plenty of work for two or three competent editors to do during the next few years for the text of Byron's writings and the elucidation and illustration of his poetry and prose; but it is not quite clear that Mr. Henley and his publisher have been well advised in entering upon so serious an undertaking as an edition of all Byron's writings available for their use, prose and verse, just when the public has become sufficiently alive again to the importance of Byron to be greatly in-terested in the question, "What will Mr. Murray and Lord Lovelace do in the final edition of the poetry which they are said to have in hand?" It is beyond question that a very heavy labour of minute research, requiring great judgment and experience, awaits the man who is to deal worthily with the family archives and the masses of material stored at Albemarle Street in connexion with the poetry alone. An expert and a critic in one is, however, needed for the work, if it is to be done properly. Mr. Henley, so far as elucidation and illustration are concerned, has an open field and is fully equipped. The copyright of Moore's contributions of material by or about Byron is extinct, as is that of a vast number of Byron books of more or less consequence; but the proper settlement of the text is hampered by restrictions that an editor must either ignore and leave his work imperfect, flout and risk a lawsuit, or arrange with constituted authorities.

Mr. Henley in his preface says that his edition of Byron's prose will be "divided into (1) Letters; (2) Journals and Memoranda; and (3) Miscellanies—as the epistle to Roberts, the 'Vampire' fragment, the 'Observations upon "Observations," and the like." The text is stated to be "reprinted from Moore, from Dallas, Leigh Hunt, J. T. Hodgson, and the rest," and all Mr. Henley seems to claim for his edition is that, "incomplete as probably it is, it is practically the first reissue on novel and peculiar lines which has been attempted

for close on seventy years." The first instalment is a thick volume of 490 pages, of which 290 are devoted to the text of certain letters written by Byron to various correspondents during the years from 1804 to 1813. Most of the remainder is devoted to the annotation of the same. The letters themselves are in a clear and readable type; but the comment is printed in too small a size for comfort even to unimpaired eyesight. Indeed, although this comment is but a pot pourri, it is like the best pots pourris, well spiced, and deserved a better treatment at the printer's hands.

The letters printed by Moore are here given without the interruption of Moore's setting; but of that setting a great deal is retained, mixed up with other extracts, in Mr. Henley's notes. There is stonishingly little in the letters themselves with which the Byron reader is not already familiar, for by "Dallas, Leigh Hunt, J. T. Hodgson, and the rest," we are to understand that Mr. Henley has been digging (1) in those three rich volumes\* which the Rev. A. R. C. Dallas published in Paris in 1825, being restrained by an injunction of the Court of Chancery from publishing the work in England; (2) in 'Lord Byron and some of his Contemporaries,' published by Leigh Hunt in 1828; and (3) in the 'Memoir of the Rev. Francis Hodgson, B.D., Scholar, Poet, and Divine, with Numerous Letters from Lord Byron and Others,' two volumes, which Hodgson's son, the Rev. J. T. Hodgson, published through Messrs. Macmillan & Co. no longer ago than 1878.

Letters No. 51 and No. 52 read a little unfamiliarly, and we find from an un-obtrusive note at p. 333 that "certain sentences" are "here restored from the originals in Mr. Alfred Morrison's Collection of Autographs." This is a somewhat provoking confession, because if Mr. Henley was able to arrange with the proprietors of the copyright for power to avail himself of an autograph collector's courtesy in respect of these two letters, why, one wonders, could not similar arrangements have been made as to other letters of which the holographs are extant and the printed text is lamentably defective through omission and

manipulation?

However, this instalment of the text of Byron's letters must not be taken too seriously. Mr. Henley's notes, on the other hand, are of really sterling value, for they are full of brilliant pictures and marked by praiseworthy erudition. So far as they are gathered from "Moore, Leigh Hunt, J. T. Hodgson, and the rest," there is too great a proneness to break off in the middle of an extract with an impatient "&c.," as if the condescension of quoting at all were a great strain upon our commentator. The whole series of these notes would not exactly make a book; but it would be an agreeable experiment to try what good

\* The title, which tells a tale essential to be known, is as follows: "Correspondence of Lord Byron with a Friend, including his Letters to his Mother, written from Portugal, Spain, Greece, and the Shores of the Mediterranean in 1809, 1810, and 1811. Also Recollections of the Poet. By the late R. C. Dallas, Esq. The Whole forming an Original Memoir of Lord Byron's Life, from 1809 to 1814. And a Continuation and Preliminary Statement of the Proceedings by which the Letters were suppressed in England at the Suit of Lord Byron's Recutors. By the Rev. A. R. C. Dallas. [3 vols. 12mo.] Paris, published by A. & W. Galignani, at the English, French, Italian, German, and Spanish Library, 18, Rue Vivienne, 1825."

reading they would make if printed with due elimination and revision, in bold type, in a handy volume apart. The brief studies or memoirs of the many men and women forming the Byron circle, or mentioned by him to his several correspondents, are as graphic and well compacted as need be; and we would commend specially to the reader's attention those on Dallas (p. 309), Harness (p. 311), Jackson the pugilist (p. 316), Francis Hodgson (p. 319), Hob-Moore (p. 321), Augusta Leigh (p. 364), Moore (p. 378), Southey (p. 388), Galt (p. 402), the Countess of Jersey (p. 403), Lady Caroline Lamb (p. 407), Scott (p. 415), and Rogers (p. 433). That on Leigh Hunt (p. 435) shows too much animus even for the purposes of Mr. Henley's obvious "hero-worship" for Byron. Indeed, impartiality is not to be reckoned among Mr. Henley's foibles; he is a good honest hater, and his Byron worship is somewhat of that curious strain which excludes not only Byron's enemies, but his opposites— as Shelley. In fact, his notes, in spite of their brilliant qualities, are by no means free from faults and flaws. We mention a few points which have struck us on a first perusal.

At pp. 299-300 the reader is told of the 'Fugitive Pieces,' Byron's first book, the

renowned quarto of 1806, that it

"was printed for him by Ridge of Newark in the November of the same year; but the issue was burned-so thoroughly was the thing done that only one copy is known to exist—at the request of Becher, who found a certain number, 'To Mary' unduly voluptuous in intention and

This not very clearly expressed sentence, which we give precisely as punctuated in the book, is clear in one point, at all events, viz., that only one copy is known to exist. Moore's statement on the subject is that two, or at the most three, escaped the Becher-Byron holocaust. Thus far Moore's statement has not been shaken. "Two, or at the most three," expresses admirably the publicly known state of the case to day: Becher's own copy, another complete copy, and an imperfect one (wanting the peccant poem) are still in existence. The quarto has also been reprinted privately in beautiful type facsimile.

In annotating at pp. 303-4 the early caricature sketch of Dr. Butler, under the name of "Pomposus," Mr. Henley might have remarked that Byron was already borrowing from Churchill, who, in the satire of 'The Ghost,' had given the same name, though in its Italian form "Pomposo," to Dr. Johnson. At pp. 315-16 is a note on Samuel Jackson Pratt, which does not mention the poem called 'Bread; or, the Poor,' popular in its day, finely illustrated, and serviceable to Shelley in compiling the notes to 'Queen Mab,' although a line of identification would have been useful, as the book has many titles: 'Cottage Pictures; or, the Poor,' on the title-page; 'Bread; or, the Poor,' in the headlines; 'The Poor; or, Cottage Pictures,' at foot of the engravings. Shelley cites the poem as 'Bread; or, the Poor.' There is also a small sin of commission here, as well as that of omission: Mr. Henley makes the man whom he goes a little out of his way to vilify a Buckinghamshire man, "born at

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St. Ives (Bucks)." No such place is known to geographers; and St. Ives in Huntingdonshire claims the honour, such as it is, of

being Pratt's birthplace.

The masterly little sketch of Gifford at p. 326—one of the best of such vignettes—would have been truer in its sense of proportion had there been an allusion to Hazlitt's wonderful 'Letter' and Leigh Hunt's 'Ultra-Crepidarius.' Mr. Henley need not allow prejudice against Hunt to deprive him of a telling illustration. And after all, if Gifford did good service to literature against the Della-Cruscans and Peter Pindar, Hunt did better in forestalling the scorn of Mr. Henley himself for this contemptible thing Gifford, as he clearly did in his very elever, if not sufficiently venomous poem. Perhaps it would have been better for Mr. Henley's case against Hunt if he had stated it a little less strongly; for Hunt, with all his faults, was a good fellow on the whole, and still has numerous living relations and friends who cherish his memory.

friends who cherish his memory.

At p. 331 'The Battle of the Nile' might fairly have been expected to find a place among Sotheby's "mediocre verse," of which there is such a curious display.

Accuracy in quoting his hero's own poetical works is not to be reckoned among Mr. Henley's strong points. At p. 346, in illustration of the passage in which Byron tells his friend Francis Hodgson how "two daysago" he "swam from Sestos to Abydos," the editor mentions "the lines in 'Don Juan'.

A feat on which ourselves we rather prided Leander, Ekenhead, and I did."

The misquotation not only destroys the metre, but does away with the exquisite drollery of the real passage, which is (canto ii. stanza ev.):—

A better swimmer you could scarce see ever,
He could, perhaps, have pass'd the Hellespont,
As once (a feat on which ourselves we prided)
Leander, Mr. Ekenhead, and I did.

The note on Byron's reference to "Anacreon Moore's new operatic farce" is hardly sufficient. Hodgson, it seems, had forestalled Thomas Hood in the very punster's motive of that immortal piece of imaginative wit 'The Wee Man'; and in elucidation of Byron's reply all that Mr. Henley says is:—

"This [the farce] was 'M.P., or the Bluestocking,' produced at the Lyceum, 9th September, 1811. The author was far from proud of his work. But eight songs from it are included in his 'Works'; and poor enough they are."

Now 'M.P.; or, the Blue-stocking,' was not merely produced on the stage in September, 1811, but was published as a book the same year with a preface dated the 9th of October, and, whether in pride or in humility, signed in full by Thomas Moore. In the same year, too, he issued a separate pamphlet containing the lyric portions only, without the prose substance of the farce. Both book and pamphlet are scarce, but not so scarce that an editor has a dispensation to leave them unfound and unnoticed.

Bishop Watson is dismissed with disproportionate brevity in the note (pp. 387-8) to Byron's record that he has read "Watson to Gibbon." It would have been at least interesting to find the bishop identified as

the same notable ecclesiastic who wrote the 'Sermon and Appendix of Strictures on the French Revolution,' which called forth from Wordsworth one of his best prose works, the 'Apology for the French Revolution,' written in 1793, but not published till 1876, when Dr. Grosart did a service to the world by giving it from the manuscript in his edition of 'Wordsworth's Prose Works.'

On Byron's good, sensible, worldly-minded letter to the Quaker poet Bernard Barton, printed at pp. 199-201, there is, of course, a note, but not, to our thinking, one quite adequate to the occasion. "Do not renounce writing," says Byron, "but never trust entirely to authorship. If you have a possession, retain it; it will be like Prior's fellowship, a last and sure resource." Mr. Henley does not suggest that "possession" is a mistake of some one's for profession, though the moral which he points in recording (p. 413) that Barton was "forty years clerk in a bank at Woodbridge" of course illustrates "profession." The only works he mentions are 'Metrical Effusions' (1812), 'Poems by an Amateur' (1817), and 'Poems' (1820). Barton's books and biography literally bristle with literary allusions and connexions; but "being," as Mr. Henley says, "a very amiable and respectable man, as well as a writer of not displeasing mediocrity," there was no sufficient inducement to take the trouble of stating the good man's career proportionately. His connexion with Edward Fitzgerald might, however, have been mentioned with advantage.

Loyalty to Byron or any other poet need scarcely bind a commentator to take at his idol's valuation every one who has to be dealt with. When Byron writes (p. 235) to Mr. Murray, "I presume all your Scribleri will be drawn up in battle array....Mr. Bucke, for instance," it is not incumbent on the commentator, however staunch to his hero, to dismiss the allusion to Charles Bucke with—"For an account of this scribbler's quarrel with Edmund Kean, see Hawkins, 'Life,' &c., ii. chapters v. and vi.," and a few lines of caustic remark from Scott to Southey, as Mr. Henley does at p. 232. "Any schoolboy" can translate Scriblerus into scribbler. It is quite right, of course, to refer to F. W. Hawkins's book, but justice demands that Bucke's version of the quarrel should be cited as well as that of Kean's advocate. See also the preface to Charles Bucke's tragedy of 'The Italians.'

Why, at pp. 438-9, 'The "Living Dog" and "The Dead Lion" should have been

and "The Dead Lion" should have been quoted from a copy incorrectly made by Augusta Leigh, and now in Mr. Alfred Morrison's great collection of autographs, is not altogether evident, and it has tempted Mr. Henley into the inaccurate subheading "Thomas Moore to Leigh Hunt." The verses were not addressed to Leigh Hunt—could not be in the nature of things; and, for the rest, Mrs. Leigh, without preserving a single variant of even the most trifling significance, made such bad slips of transcription that Mr. Henley had to remedy some of them by interpolations in brackets. If he did not

interpolations in brackets. If he did not like to be beholden to Moore's 'Satirical and Humorous Poems' for his extract, he might have gone back either to the Times,

where the piece first appeared, or to the 'Odes upon Cash, Corn, Catholics, and other Matters,' in which Moore reprinted it anonymously in 1828. He would not then have had to submit to the damage which Mrs. Leigh's careless copying did to the brilliant Irishman's brilliant rapier-thrust. By the omission of the pause and one comma from the last line, the best quatrain in the poem—though the coarsest—is unfortunately spoilt in the Leigh-Henley version.

When all is said, the book is still one with which we cannot but desire to "part friends." The letters themselves are mostly good reading. The editor has culled from Moore, Scott, Rogers, Hobhouse, Scrope Davies, "and the rest," a great mass of printed or reported utterances which are also quite interesting; and the best of his own vignettes are excellent pieces of writing,

and do him no little credit.

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One of the most interesting vignettes in the volume is a description of M. Grosley's 'Londres,' a work describing the author's experiences during an eight weeks' visit to London in the early part of 1765. M. Grosley knew nothing of our language, but this ignorance was, he thought, an advantage, as "his inability to understand our tongue did but enhance and intensify his native acuteness of vision." He was certainly a keen observer with a strong sense of the ridiculous, and during his stay in London he had many opportunities of making use of his natural endowments. "M. Grosley," writes Mr. Dobson in a passage which affords a good specimen of

his style,

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"was fortunate in happening upon an unusually eventful time. Already King George had been attacked by the first of those mysterious ill-nesses which ultimately incapacitated him as a practising monarch, and to this, during M. practising monarch, and to this, during M. Grosley's sojourn among us, was to follow the second Regency Bill, with all its anti-Bute plotting and counterplotting. Then Lord Byron had killed his cousin Mr. Chaworth, of Nottinghamshire, in a quarrel at the Star and Garter in Pall Mall, and the galleries had already been erected for his lordship's trial by his peers in Westminster Hall. Moreover, the Spitalfields weavers were to make new demonstrations against the clandestine importation of French silks, marching in their thousands under black banners.....It is true that at this date some banners.....It is true that at this date some notable and notorious persons were unavoidably absent from London. Mr. Laurence Sterne, for instance, who had not long published vols. vii. and viii. of 'Tristram Shandy,' was at the Bath, and Mr. Garrick was at Paris.....Mr. Whiteneld was still in America; Mr. John Wilkes was luxuriating at Naples; and Miss 'Iphigenia' Chud-leigh had betaken herself to the German waters. On the other hand, there were rumours that Rousseau was coming to England, and (perhaps) the Duc de Nivernais; while if Roscius was not rejoicing his admirers in Drury Lane, Foote would soon be delighting the devotees of broad-grin at the little theatre in the Haymarket. At Vauxhall and Ranelagh the season was approaching; and the exhibition of the Society of Artists at the Great Room in Spring Gardens was on the point of opening.

Of these opportunities of studying the manners and customs of the English M. Grosley made a good use, and except with the lower classes his experiences of our country were not unfavourable. But his eccentric costume, his lean and bony figure, the unnatural pallor of his complexion, and his "visage d'extrême onction," as he calls it, attracted very unpleasant attention from the mob. "My French air," he says, "drew upon me, at every corner of the street, a volley of abusive litanies, in the midst of which I slipped on, thanking my stars that I did not understand English."

M. Grosley was an assiduous attendant at the theatres, where he admired the tragic pieces, but formed a poor opinion of our comedies. His judgment, he tells us, was in both cases due, in Lord Chesterfield's opinion, to ignorance of our language, but this touch of epigrammatic wit should probably be credited to the witty Frenchman himself. At Lord Byron's trial M. Grosley was impressed by the stately ceremonial and the splendour of Westminster Hall, but his attention appears to have been a good deal taken up by the Westminster boys seated on the steps of the throne, munching apples, and throwing the strips of peel into the curls of the Lord High Steward's periwig. Mr. Dobson gives the name of the Lord High Steward as Robert Henley. It was not, however, Lord Henley but the Earl of Northerton who presided at Lord Byron's trial. The intelligent tourist was of course taken to hear the debates in Parliament, and he thought the speeches of the peers better de-livered than anything he had heard on our stage. In the Lower House he was not fortunate enough to hear Pitt, and thought little of the eloquence of those members who spoke when he was present.
"They stood up," he says, "and addressed them to the Speaker's chair (bureau du Spik), with legs apart, one knee bent, and one arm extended, as if they were going to fence." This description of the position assumed by our parliamentary orators is extremely happy, and it may be added that this ungraceful attitude is still rigidly adhered to by many members of the Commons in our own day. We learn from Mr. Dobson that M. Grosley was surprised

"that the pious salutation of any one who sneezed, which still prevailed in his own country, had been abolished in England by the use of snuff. He was given to understand that to salute a snuff-taker in these circumstances was like complimenting him on the colour of the hair of his wig. That colour, by the way, he announces in another place, was usually reddish brown, being chosen as least affected by the mud and dirt of the streets."

Mr. Dobson gathers from this ingenuous explanation that some of M. Grosley's obliging informants must occasionally, in eighteenth century parlance, have treated him to a bite. We do not quite agree with this suggestion. M. Grosley's remarks were more probably inspired by his own sense of humour.

A highly readable vignette in this new series contains a description of Puckle's 'Club,' a dull book in itself, which has, however, provided Mr. Dobson with an opportunity of imparting some amusing gossip to his readers. One witty aphorism quoted here from Puckle, but taken by him, it may be suspected, from some earlier source, is uttered by "Rake," a member of a convivial club assembled at the Noah's Ark. He inveighs against matrimony, which, he declares, men praise as they "do good mustard, with tears in their eyes." Mr. Dobson's own copy of Puckle is the identical little 12mo. deposited on April 29th, 1713, at Lincoln's Inn, where, according to a MS. inscription in the volume, it was "Entered & Registered according to ye Statute." The margins, moreover, are covered with additions and corrections, apparently in Puckle's own handwriting. By consulting various outof-the-way sources Mr. Dobson has been able to frame quite a connected account of Puckle's career, and has even discovered an advertisement in the Spectator of June 25th, 1712, offering a reward for a pearl necklace lost by him, "in or near" Mr. Edward Smith's house near Uxbridge.

Molly Lepel - the well-known maid of honour, afterwards the wife of Lord Hervey -forms the subject of another vignette. It opens with a capital story of one of the royal coachmen at old Leicester House, who bequeathed 300%, to his son on condition that he should never marry a maid of honour. Lady Hervey was one of the most fascinating women of her time. She knew everybody worth knowing, and was liked by everybody whom she knew; but the records of her life are too devoid of episodes to furnish materials for a lively sketch. Mr. Dobson is inaccurate in stating that Pulteney was a visitor at Lady Hervey's house in St. James's Place, both before and after his elevation to the peerage. Pulteney was created Earl of Bath in 1742, and Lady Hervey's name does not appear in the ratebooks as occupier of the house for some years after that date. But this is a trifling inaccuracy. A more serious slip, however, occurs in the same vignette, where Mr.

Dobson, in alluding to Hampton Court, speaks of it as "Wren's formal palace by the Thames." It is true that Wren rebuilt two of the courts, but what remains of the old building is a fine relic of the great cardinal's magnificence, and one of the best examples extant of the domestic architecture of the early Tudor period.

It is to be hoped that this may not be the last series of 'Eighteenth Century Vignettes,' and when three or four more volumes are published Mr. Dobson would render a service to those interested in the subject if he would issue a general index to the whole work, to serve as a sort of encyclopædia of eighteenth century lore.

The Devil in Britain and America. By John Ashton. (Ward & Downey.)

ALTHOUGH Mr. Ashton presents a formidable list of books, in Latin, French, German, Dutch, and English, "consulted and used in this work," his readers may be inclined to think that in many cases the use and con-sultation must have been rather perfunctory. The works are supposed to be set forth in order of their publication. At the end of those issued in the sixteenth century we come to "Malleus Maleficarum. De lamiis et strigibus et sagis aliisque Magis & Demoniacis eorumque arte potestate & pœna. 2 tom. Francofurti, 1600. 8vo."— in other words, Sprenger's famous work with the name of the author omitted, and relegated to the last year of the sixteenth century, whereas the Grand Inquisitor of Germany flourished in the fifteenth. This particular edition is, indeed, an amplified reissue of Sprenger's work. He who does not know the date of his 'Malleus Maleficarum' can hardly have a profound acquaintance with the history of demonology and witchcraft. And what is to be thought of a writer on the subject who appends this note to one of his stories? "The writer was the Rev. Joseph Glanville, M.A., F.R.S., Chaplain in Ordinary to King Charles II., Rector of the Abbey Church, Bath, and a Prebendary of Worcester." So much and no more. In truth, Mr. Ashton's book itself makes no profession, or nothing beyond a profession, to knowledge of this wider kind. It is not to be confounded with the philosophical chapters on the subject in Mr. Lecky's 'Rationalism' nor with Michelet's wonderful 'La Sorcière'; not even with Mr. Moncure Conway's book on the devil; for Mr. Ashton's title itself is a little misleading. What the book really is, as readers of the author's other books might expect, is not a history of the belief in Satan, but a highly interesting collection of witch trials and stories of pos-session in England and America from the sixteenth century downwards, drawn in the majority of cases from pamphlets and chap-books, and illustrated for the most part by reproductions of the small wood-blocks with which such chap-books are often adorned. The bibliography at the end is certainly not without value, so far as it is really germane to the matter of the volume; but half a dozen books, such as Olaus Magnus, Bodin, the 'Malleus Maleficarum,' &c., should have been omitted. What, for instance, can be the use of going to the 'Historia de Gentibus Septentriona-

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libus' (in translation) for an account of the witches in Norway during the Saga era, and making no mention of the many delightful witch stories in the Icelandic Sagas themselves?

themselves? "Witchcraft," in the modern sense of the word, is a very different subject for study from "demonology" in its wider acceptation. Mr. Ashton shows a sense of the difference. "At what date," he says, "the higher cult of sorcery or magic became the drivel known as witchcraft is uncertain." But this implies an exaggeration on the other side. There is no date, because there is no clear line of demarcation. Superstitions which are contemptible in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries have a certain impressiveness and a certain grandeur in the twelfth or thirteenth. But to give not the devil only but his judges their due, the Middle Ages were really not so degradedly superstitious on these matters as the dawn—nay, as the full day—of the Renaissance. Mr. Lecky's wellknown history, which to the majority of English readers probably represents the philosophy of witchcraft, is a little misleading upon this point. The writer had a proposition to establish—the steady growth of rationalism out of the belief of mediæval Christianity. It was, too, his first important book, and it was necessary for him to be picturesque. Nobody who has read them can forget the magnificent passages in which the attitude of the mediæval mind towards miracle, and, by implication, towards witchcraft, or, again, the effects of the Black Death and the dawn of scepticism, are described in Mr. Lecky's work. No doubt, to give a rotundity to this proposition and to this picturesque narrative, witchcraft ought to have been extremely prevalent in the Middle Ages. But as a fact the traces of it are far fewer then than in more enlightened ages. It is only at the dawn of the Reformation that enactments against it appear in our statute-books. Mr. Lecky places the culmination of the dread of witchcraft in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The truth is, however, that there is not very much to be learnt about witchcraft, even on the Continent, prior to the publication of Sprenger's book towards the end of the fifteenth century. But, after all, Mr. Lecky has only been following the lines marked out by Michelet. The latter traces the career of the witch throughout the Middle Ages; but his documentary evidence, even for the "Sabbat," is not of the Middle Ages. English witchcraft, for which the documents are comparatively modern, has little to say to this impressive superstition of the

Devil's Sabbath, which in origin and character is undoubtedly mediæval.

The trial for witchcraft of Joan of Arc is by far the most memorable process of the kind of which there are any records. Joan was condemned as a heretic, and burnt as a witch. The trial, though at the instance of the English, was conducted at Rouen and according to French law. It therefore does not fall within the scope of Mr. Ashton's book. A short account is given of the trial of Eleanor Cobham, Duchess of Gloucester, which is familiar enough to everybody. Mr. Ashton's witch anddevilstories are not arranged in anything approaching to chronological order. The history of the Good Devil of Woodstock,

which likewise is familiar to every reader of Scott, appears almost at the beginning of the book. As this is one of the very few which are not, technically speaking, cases of witchcraft, Mr. Ashton probably places it where he does to justify his wide-reaching title; for, of course, the proceedings of "Funny Joe" date from near the end of the heyday of witch trials. Nowadays, as little evidence is required for the commonplace source of extraordinary phenomena as in a more superstitious age sufficed for their supernatural origin; otherwise, as Mr. Andrew Lang not long since pointed out, the story of "Funny Joe"—first presented about a hundred years after the occurrences it was supposed to explain-would not have found such ready acceptance. The great era for witch trials was the end of the fifteenth century and the first half of the sixteenth. James I., as we know, had a special nose for a witch. One wonders if Reginald Scot's courageous and sensible 'Discoverie of Witchcraft' did anything to lessen the zeal of judges and jury, or whether the lot of the "poor, old, lame, fowl and blear eyed women," who, as he says, "are the sort of such as are said to be witches," would have been even worse than it was during that miserable century if he had never written. What a satire upon the whole theory of the covenant with Satan are these sentences of his !-

"These miserable wretches are so odious unto all their neighbours and so feared as few dare offend them or deny them anie thing they aske; whereby they take upon them; yea and some times thinke, that they doo such things as are beyond the abilitie of humane nature. These go from house to house, and from doore to doore for a pot full of milke, yest, drink or pottage or some such releefe; without the which they could hardlie liue: neither obtaining for their seruice and paines nor by their art, nor yet at the diuel's hands (with whom they are said to make a perfect and visible bargaine) either beautie, monie, promotion, welth, worship, pleasure, honor, knowledge, learning or anie other benefit whatsoeuer."

Mr. Ashton refers only incidentally to that infamous scoundrel Matthew Hopkins, the Suffolk witch-finder. And when we come to his American section we find it sadly summary. The celebrated Salem persecution is represented by only part of the report of one trial and by a list of names. These are the last executions for witchcraft among the English-speaking people, and for these America, Samuel Parris, of Salem, Connecticut, and in a less degree Cotton Mather, bear the blame. In this dying flicker of superstition twenty-five persons—nostly women—were hanged, one old woman died in gaol, and one man for refasing to plead was pressed to death.

fasing to plead was pressed to death.

Mr. Ashton's book cannot be described either as scholarly or exhaustive. Its usefulness as a work of reference is largely diminished by the loose way in which the materials are arranged and the absence of an index. There is no list of illustrations. The frontispiece, 'Facsimile of the only known Specimen of the Devil's Writing,' gives the book a touch of vulgarity. But it is a meritorious compilation; and considered as a book written essentially for the general reader, and the rather indolent one "at that," it is far from unacceptable.

A Calendar of the Inner Temple Records. Edited by F. A. Inderwick, Q.C.—Vol. I. 21 Hen. VII. (1505)-45 Eliz. (1603). (Sotheran & Co.)

This volume forms the first of a series to be issued by the Society of the Inner Temple for the purpose of making known to the general public the valuable records preserved in that ancient place of learning. If succeeding volumes are as well edited as this one, and prove to possess equal interest, a hearty welcome is assured to them. Indeed, the interest of further instalments of this work promises to be greater than that which we find here, for Mr. Inderwick has the most difficult portion of his labour at the outset, many of the earlier records having perished. With much pains and skill he has surmounted all obstacles, and, with the help of many writers, from Chaucer to those of the present day, he has prepared an introduction to this volume which in great measure fills up the gaps just alluded to, and has presented us with the history of the Inner Temple from its earliest days to the close of the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

That "things are not what they seem" may be illustrated by glancing first at the list of Inner Temple records and then by perusing the pages of this volume. Nothing could well be more uninviting and drier than a catalogue of Acts of Parliament, Admission Books, Bar Bonds, Bench Table Orders, Certificate Books, Account Books, and so on, but an examination of these records throws a flood of light on matters of importance, not only to legal students, but to all writers on the ecclesiastical, social, and literary history of our country. The calendar, which forms the body of this volume, has been made, with all his customary carefulness and ability, by Mr. W. Page, F.S.A., and he has also prepared an admirable index and closes by the work.

admirable index and glossary to the work. The Inner Temple may well be proud of its records, which go further back than those of any of the Inns of Court, Lincoln's Inn only excepted. Several of the earlier records were destroyed in one or other of the numerous fires to which the Temple was subject both before and after the Great Fire of 1666. Wat Tyler and his followers, in 1381, burnt, as Thomas of Walsingham tells us, "many muniments which the lawyers had in their custody." Mr. Inderwick has much to say of the various Inns of Chancery and of the four great Inns of Court. He writes pleasantly of the ancient days when the Society of the Inner Temple held their premises by agreement with the Knights Hospitallers, a state of matters which continued until the dissolution of the latter body in or about 1540, after which date the Society held as tenants at will from the Crown. He describes the various buildings of the Temple—the Church, the Hall, the Chambers; he pictures the garden and the trees, the courts, and the signs over the Shakspeare, in describing the scene between Somerset and Plantagenet in the Temple Garden, refers to the smallness of the Hall in the words which he assigns to Suffolk. Mr. Inderwick discourses on the advance made in legal training at his Inn during the century covered by his volume. The shadowy curriculum of miscellaneous study that Fortescue speaks

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of had given place to a more definite system, initiated by Queen Mary and regularized by Coke and his immediate predecessors. We have full accounts of the Benchers, Treasurers, Governors, Readers, Auditors, Pensioners, and of the several other officers of the Society. The governing body sat in "Parliaments," and their Acts fill a large number of volumes. These Acts dealt not only, as is generally supposed, with such matters as admissions and calls and the appointment of officers, but with various ecclesiastical and social questions regarding the tenants of the Inner Temple. Of bonds, and deeds, and leases, we read enough, but the picture drawn by Mr. Inderwick has several living personalities, and festivity is by no means absent. Take William Ermested, who was Master of the Temple by deed dated March 2nd, 1542. This ecclesiastic accepted the new Prayer Book under Edward VI., turned round again under Mary Tudor, and made a third change of religion under Elizabeth, dying in 1560, when he was succeeded by Dr. Alvey. Mr. Inderwick gives a very fair summary of the religious ordinances of the period comprised in his book, so far as the Inn was concerned, and where he has been able to complete his cases by drawing on the documents in the Public Record Office, he has wisely filled in his characters. Thus certain members of the Inn were, in 1569, convicted of not resorting to the church at the accustomed times, and of not receiving the communion there. One of them, Robert Atkinson,

"saith that in the vacation times he hath usually gone to the church in the country, and saith he hath not gone so often to church since he hath been a practitioner,"

an excuse not unknown in the present day. Another member, Thomas Greenwood,

"hath seldom gone to the church by reason of the multitude of causes since he was a practitioner, but he saith his prayers privately in his chamber,"

which excuse may also apply to modern times. In the records of the Inner Temple Mr. Inderwick has made an interesting discovery. It is that on January 28th, 1581/2, Sir Francis Drake was specially admitted a fellow of the Society "upon a fine at the discretion of the treasurer." Drake had recently returned from his voyage round the world, and his ship, the Golden Hind, was lying in the Thames, an object of universal admiration.

There is much in this volume about the banquets and revels given from time to time in the Temple, and also about the plays there represented. On Twelfth Night of 1560 or 1561 the first dramatic performance of one of the earliest English stragedies, 'Gorboduc,' took place in the Inner Temple Hall. One of its authors was the distinguished jurist Thomas Norton, a Puritan, who had been tutor to the Protector Somerset's children, and had translated into English Calvin's 'Institutions of the Christian Religion.' In 1568 the play of 'Tancred and Gismund' was produced, Elizabeth herself being present. Among the miscellaneous entries in these Inner Temple Records are orders against the waring of cloaks, hats, &c., in the church, buttery, or hall, under a penalty of 6s. 8d.; prohibitions against going into the City with hats, boots, and spurs, unless the

wearers are riding out of the town; against playing dice or cards in the hall, or elsewhere in the house, under pain of fine and expulsion; against "shooters with guns" within the Inn; against disclosing the secrets of the Parliament; against coming into the hall with any weapon, except the dagger and the knife, under penalty of 5l.; an order that no married man should be eligible as a butler of the Society, and that, if a butler married after appointment, he should lose his post; an order regulating the allowance of beef and beer to the gardener, and ordering "all broken bread and drink with the chippings" to be distributed among the poor; and numerous others.

Enough has been said to show that, while describing the studies and life of the students and lawyers of the Inner Temple, these records are of interest to others besides members of the compiler's profession. We can cordially commend his volume (for the printing and binding of which a word of admiration must not be omitted), and we shall look forward to the due arrival of its successors.

Introduction to the History of Religion. By F. B. Jevons, M.A. (Methuen & Co.)

WRITERS of "introductions" to scientific subjects are usually expected to supply milk for babes. Mr. Jevons's 'Introduction to the History of Religion' is by no means "very popular milk"; on the other hand, it is uncommonly strong meat. Mr. Jevons belongs to the anthropological school, and leaves aside the speculations, for example, of Prof. Max Müller. He has not even very much to say about Mr. E. B. Tylor, but is a follower of Prof. Robertson Smith and Mr. Frazer, who again proceed directly from Mr. McLennan, though they are both more learned and more critical than that brilliant pioneer. As to Mr. Herbert Spencer, Mr. Jevons reverses his theory that ancestor worship is the origin of religion:—

"The notion that gods were evolved out of ghosts is based on an unproved assumption......
The fact is that ancestors known to be human were not worshipped as gods, and that ancestors worshipped as gods were not believed to have been human."

Mr. Jevons begins with the "calling forth of the belief in supernatural power"—its "calling forth," not its creation—by the violation of "laws on which man could count, and sequences which he habitually initiated and controlled." Such events seemed to him "supernatural," caused by "a mysterious power." With that power man, to serve his private ends, would try to enter into friendly relations, regarding the power as exercised by "a spirit having affinity to his own." All things were, of course, animated to the mind of this early thinker, but were not necessarily "super-natural." "The spirits were not in them-selves supernatural spirits," and only became so when man believed them to exercise "supernatural power." He would endeavour to locate the power, and did so in animals, or in a common ancestor of his and of a given species of animal. When he tried to control and direct the power, as by sympathetic magic, he was doing something, in his opinion, rather scientific than supernatural. Thus you put sharp stones in an

enemy's foot-tracks for the purpose of laming him by sympathy. That is, in your state of knowledge, as scientific, and as little supernatural, as if you gave your enemy, a dose of arsenic. Thus magic is not the root of religion, for religion is offended by the assumptions of the sorcerer. Yet, as in Chaldea and in the very mixed faith of lamblichus, religion and magic may find a modus vivendi.

Mr. Jevons next asks how man conceived of the environing personalities, not himself. He follows Mr. Tylor's theory of dreams as the source of the savage's mental picture of his own spirit. The spirit is detachable in dream, trance, and death; it may return from the grave, and receives a friendly welcome if it does so. That welcome (which is not worship) is extended to "supernatural spirits," and then is worship. That worship is again transferred to natural spirits

of the ancestral dead.

Mr. Jevons now turns to taboo, which, he says, is not derived from fear of evil spirits. He derives it, oddly enough, from a feeling that "some things must never be done," and this feeling is a "'primitive' sentiment, a tendency inherent in the mind of man....it is prior to, and even contra-dictory of, experience." "The sentiment is neither exclusively moral, religious, nor social." Against this opinion the arguments are obvious. Let us take a case or two. "You must not eat poison berries," that is a prohibition, not a taboo. But " you must not hear the crying of the wild fowl on the Loch of Tara" (if you are an Irish king), that is a taboo. Why must you not? Nobody knows; but we cannot say that such senseless prohibitions are devoid of a (supposed) experimental foundation. Perhaps once a king was unlucky when the fowls were crying on the loch. Therefore-post hoc et ergo propter hoc-no king must run the risk again. Probably all taboos are based on a supposed experience, or (as many are) on some real though remote or unavowable practical reason. The reason in the case of not eating poison berries is obvious, capable of being tested, and so needs no "supernatural" sanction, or taboo. But when the prohibition was originally based on a supposed experience, on a fantastic theory, incapable of test, or was not convenient to be divulged, then the supernatural sanction of taboo was called in.

This theory of taboos we prefer to a mystic d priori "tendency inherent in the mind of man." However, taboo, bringing contagious punishment, interested all the community in its preservation, and produced "the conception of social obligation." The time came when the mechanical, inevitable, contagious action of taboo was taken up into religion, and regarded as the prohibition of a god who had a reason for his negative command. The more religion advanced, the more rational became the god, and, in proportion, the irrational taboos died out under the influence of individual religious reformers, till only rational and moral prohibitions remained in force (as taboos) by a process of "supernatural selection."

Mr. Jevons now turns to totemism as the first effort made by man to establish friendly society with supernatural forces. Man had no associations except with blood kin or persons adopted into the blood kin by the

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blood covenant. He conceived that all other animated things, that is, everything, existed in societies similar to his own. He had blood feuds with beasts, and he also made covenants with species of beasts and plants. These species were of his totem and he of theirs. He and his totem had a common ancestor. He may not kill or eat his totem, and now at last, in the totem, "he has gained the supernatural ally he sought." But why should he think a bear or crane supernatural at all, especially if he adopted the attitude of the Psychical Society (as he did, ex hypothesi), regarding his uncle's ghost as perfectly "natural," and no more "supernatural" than his living aunt? How does the friendly bear, quite natural, become the "totem god" or "clan god," who is supernatural? Why is "a species of natural objects conceived of as superhuman"? Apparently Mr. Jevons thinks that the common ancestor (a bear) of all bears and men of the bear totem is deified somehow and is the desired "supernatural ally." It may be our stupidity, but we cannot follow the argument nor see where or how "the supernatural" comes in.

We found man impressed with a sense of the supernatural by "the cussedness of things." We found him trying to "locate" the power which works unlooked-for phenomena. He knew of spirits galore, and regarded all things as animated, but he did not "locate" the mysterious power in spirits. He made alliance with a species of animals, and "located" the supernatural in his and their common ancestor-perhaps a lobster, and this ancestral lobster evolved into a totem god. Now, when you have once got a totem god you can anthropo-morphize him, and then deanthropomorphize him, and so forth, till you have a spiritual god. But we do not accept, or even understand, Mr. Jevons's theory of how this totem god was arrived at and regarded as "supernatural."

Space does not permit us to follow the survivals of totemism, the doctrine (much like Robertson Smith's) of sacrifice, the essays on the mysteries and fetishism, and the conclusion. From this we learn that early man "sought to reconcile his internal and external experience by identifying the personal divine will, which manifested itself to his inner consciousness, with one of the personal agents in the external world that exercised an influence on his fortunes,' and these agents he supposed to be animals, hence totems. This is rather hazy. Again, Mr. Jevons writes, "In the stage of totemism the clan has but one totem, one tribal god," which is a fallacy. In each local group or tribe, socially united, and making up a clan, there are several totems; hence it is most unlikely that such a community cherished one animal all over their range of country, and thus, as Mr. Jevons supposes, introduced the domestication of animals. His book contains many ingenious aperçus, but for an introduction it is too involved, and in our opinion too fantastic, while the logic in several places is either not clear or not convincing. For an introduction also it is too advanced, and in its theory does not seem sufficiently coherent or adequately bottomed on facts.

But, though the volume appears rather to miss its mark as an introduction, as an essay on comparative religion it is a work which no student can afford to neglect. The author is no blind follower of any master, and differs often from Mr. Frazer. The chapters on "Monotheism" and "The Evolution of Belief" are excellent in tone and spirit, suggest ideas new to many confident prattlers, and are far removed from the old reproach against the irreverence of anthropology.

#### NEW NOVELS.

The Betrayal of John Fordham. By B. L. Farjeon. (Hutchinson & Co.)

Two-THIRDS of Mr. Farjeon's book is a lurid temperance tract. John Fordham is betrayed into marriage with a confirmed dipsomaniac, and the rivalry and interested hatred of his stepmother and half-brother induce them to take the part of the terrible wife, and to misrepresent the frequent scenes of noise and riot to the husband's disadvantage. So far there is little characterization, the principal impression made being that of the extreme weakness of the husband's conduct in face of so obvious a conspiracy. The other third is a very readable detective story. A good deal of skill is expended on the murder in the lonely house at Liverpool. And so complicated are the circumstances surrounding it that it is not till the last lines of the last chapter that we are enabled, by the aid of a model detective, to trace the guilt of the crime to its proper authors. The revelations of Jack Skinner, couched in a dialect savouring strongly of shilling tickets to Kempton Park, and the self-betrayal of Madame Loubert through the comic scene in Soho. are the "pick of the basket" in a literary sense. The position of Ellen Cameron, "a woman who did," will be variously estimated. On the whole, if the earlier and polemic portion had been obliterated, Mr. Farjeon might have been congratulated on a success in his original manner.

The Home for Failures. By Lady Violet Greville. (Hutchinson & Co.)

IF Lady Violet Greville intended, as we must suppose, to write a tragedy, she should have chosen some other title than one which inevitably conveys the idea of extravaganza. Neither do the opening chapters, which are sufficiently absurd, though without being amusing, prepare us for the melancholy conclusion of the story. It must, however, be admitted that Oriza, at all events, takes herself seriously when she offers her house and her society to a miscellaneous collection of men and women scarcely more restless and discontented with life than is their hostess. The results of this preposterous scheme show a certain insight into a section of humanity that is morbidly introspective and entirely devoid of humour; but the author has neither the style nor the experience to cope with such a difficult subject, and the "failures" are for the most part unattractive and uninteresting. The Hon. Rachel Cator, whose good sense has unhappily so little influence upon her friend, is the one person in the book with any claim to vitality. We should have been glad to hear more of her and less of her "bike," which latter is fast

becoming a tiresome intrusion in a class of fiction that aspires above all to be modern.

The Red Scaur: a Novel of Manners. By P. Anderson Graham. (Longmans & Co.) This is an old-fashioned leisurely story which will afford small satisfaction to the reader who approaches it in a hasty and inconsiderate spirit. The "manners" re-ferred to are those of a remote village in Northumberland some fifty and more years ago, and the perpetual digressions to pictures of local customs and individuals can be the readier forgiven in one who has such an intimate love and knowledge of country life, and such a charming manner of portraying it, as Mr. Graham. The reader who has any sympathy with the subject can hardly fail to hear the rush of the Skelter, or to feel the fresh air from the Cheviots on his face, any more than he can withhold his affections from old John Harbottle, the the reprobate Billy White. But he will have to wade through long-winded chapters concerning persons of a previous generation, and follow the corrupt ascent of Adam Harbottle from hind to farmer, before he is allowed to proceed to the main plot and the main persons. These, when reached, with pretty Lil and her lovers (of whom the narrator is one) as central figures, provide some very stirring incidents; but owing to the absence of concentration, or rather to the author's overmastering passion for his own subject, the general impression left by the book is one of a series of delightful openair scenes rather than that of a connected

Gods of Gold. By Mrs. Aylmer Gowing. (White & Co.)

WE will do Mrs. Aylmer Gowing the justice to suppose that she meant to give her story a highly moral tone. This, however, has not debarred her from letting her readers into some astonishing secrets, from the dressing-room of the American heiress to the vestry of the Anglican priest, and in the latter case these do not edify as they were obviously in-tended to do. When "Society's Belle, the peerless Ruby Lynndale," is jilted by her aristocratic lover in favour of Yankee money-bags, she puts on a black dress, and, at "Godma's" advice, flies from her creditors to the long-suffering poor in the East-End. Here, as was easily foreseen, she falls in love with a young priest of saint-like appearance and ritualistic views. How her affection is reciprocated, and how the poor young man flies, like his predecessors in history, to escape the temptress in the desert, his shocking end, and the melodramatic proceedings of the sometime beauty, we leave the author to tell in language which is quite sufficiently florid to do justice to such matters.

A Venetian Love Story. By Blanche Loftus Tottenham. (Osgood, McIlvaine & Co.) The theme of the young woman who is engaged to one man, and on his removalwhether accidentally or in the course of his vocation—to a distance, goes and marries another, has done duty in fiction to an extent hardly justified by the frequency with which the case occurs in real life. The more embarrassing variety in which

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the inconstant lady is actually the wife of the missing man is probably far more often met with, but is certainly less popular with novelists. Miss Tottenham tells the old tale once more, largely, it would seem, as an excuse for descriptions of Venice, in which city, we may presume, she has re-cently made some stay. So have others, and some of them have also described it. The practice is a snare. It may please the writer, but it bores the reader, and in the present case rather predisposes him to take a less favourable view of the story than it deserves. When he finds the walls of Burano shimmering twice in one chapter, and the tower of old Torcello standing lonely and dark against the shadowy blue outlines of the Alps, when the golden light of the afternoon was deepening over the lagunes, he is inclined to think that Mr. Ruskin has done all this once for all, and to turn to something fresh. Really, how-ever, the story is well told, and if it could be compressed into one-third of the space it now occupies, by the excision of Torcello, Burano, and other accessories, it would doubtless be popular. Of course, it suffers from the objection to which most studies on the same theme are open-that the second man is in every respect, save mere physical development, the superior of his unlucky predecessor in the lady's affections; and the reader is consequently apt to condone the infidelity in consideration of the wisdom shown by the fickle damsel in getting out of a bad bargain. The author, we suspect, feels this, and therefore thinks it necessary to counteract any sympathies by insisting on her heroine's less amiable qualities, though until the catastrophe arrives, nothing that she tells us of her is inconsistent with the career of a well-conducted young person enough. Hence a want of "convincingness" which rather takes the edge off the tragedy.

By Mrs. Hungerford. A Lonely Girl. (Downey & Co.)

THE author of this story is, we fear, past repentance, or we would urge her to consider how much her often touching love stories lose by the rough clowning which passes for wit among her young men and maidens. In the present case we have a party assembled at an Irish country house, and besides the horse-play, which we believe is considered humorous in circles which aim at high fashion, there is the clumsy joker who never would be missed, but whom we never fail to meet in Mrs. Hungerford's pages. In the present case he is called Owen Magrath, and his banjo, his jests, and himself are equally intolerable. We also have the loud, fat Irish matron, whose personal defects are insisted on as suggestive of mirth. Here she is called Madam O'Flaherty, and is as vulgar as usual. On the other hand, the "lonely girl" herself is all that is desirable, and the lover who, more by luck than good guidance, relieves her solitary state, is a passable jeune premier. Sir Lucien, the wicked uncle, is too unmitigated in his avarice and tyranny.

A Proctor's Wooing. By Alan St. Aubyn. (White & Co.)

A PROCTOR'S WOOING' is another of Alan St. Aubyn's fictions of university life, and

it shows all the qualities and defects of its precursors. The author is more original in some of his (or her) statements in respect of Cambridge manners and customs, and in certain points of English syntax, than in devising names for the characters of the story, some of which are taken in full from living persons not unknown to fame. As for the originality of statement and implication, we learn for the first time that young women at Newnham are undergraduates. and that they expect degrees-as of course they would if they were really undergraduates. We hear of frequent visits made by men to Newnham and women to St. Crispin's, of a duel with pistols between undergraduates, and of other things which would have been exceedingly improbable, if not absolutely impossible, at any rate in the undergraduate days of the present writer. Clearly the author would not be ill advised in selecting a different set of surroundings and characteristics, in which slight errors of detail might be less conspicuous, wherewith to eke out a very respectable talent for romance.

Stella's Story. By Darley Dale. (Virtue

It is not every young lady whose lover, having married some one else from motives of duty, finds himself within a few months enabled, owing to a colliery explosion, to return to her and resume with a more fortunate result the relations temporarily interrupted by his aberration into the paths of self-sacrifice. On the other hand, it may be said that not every young man owns a colliery where matters are conducted in the casual fashion that seems to have prevailed in Mr. Paul Benson's pit. "Lying on their backs in all directions," we read. "were a number of almost naked men; in their caps they wore lighted candles." Setting aside the physical difficulty of wearing a lighted candle in your cap when you are lying on your back, we may observe that, with this easygoing use of naked lights at the "face," the accident which terminated the short married life of the first Mrs. Benson was bound to occur early and often, and further that somebody would hardly in real life have escaped a trial for manslaughter. Before "Darley Dale" makes another story turn on the chances of coal-mining, she had better ascertain a little more about the way in which that industry is carried on. In the presence of such a monstrous bit of carelessness as that we have pointed out, it is hardly worth while to remark that there are no such places in Venice as the "Riva de Schiavone" or the "Scuola di San Rocca," and that the student of architecture does not look for the "Early English" style in France. Otherwise the book is commonplace, and the business of the twin sisters and their lovers is occasionally a trifle vulgar.

TWO BOOKS ABOUT JAPAN.

The Hermit Princes: a Tale of Adventure in Japan, by Eleanor Stredder (Nelson & Sons), is a confused story, or rather a series of scenes in which an English boy wrecked upon the coast of Ainuland; a ci-devant Daimio, rejoicing in the extraordinary title or name Go-Inkyo, who manages to keep up his train of "yaconins" and much of his former state under the new régime; and a variety

of anachronistic Japanese, play their several parts. The adventures are anything but thrilling, and the local colour and properties are taken from current books on Japan, which accounts for their being about as real as the trappings of Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Mikado.' To those who know something of Japan such names as "Ottena," "O Ginka San," and "Archikaga," such expressions as "nam honto," mistakes like "Jesu Sama" for Jizō Sama, and the strange reproduction of the alphabetquatrain "Iroha," &c., on p. 252, will sufficiently indicate the competence of the author to execute the task she has undertaken.

Sunrise Stories, by Roger Riordan and T. Takayanagi (Kegan Paul & Co.), is a book of a very different order from 'The Hermit Princes.' The score of tales and sketches of which it consists, though inferior from a literary point of view to Mr. Mitford's charming 'Tales of Old Japan,' are more interesting in that they convey a much more interesting in that they convey a much more adequate notion of Japanese legend and fiction than was possible twenty years ago. Some of the prettier myths are shortly narrated; ex-amples are given of the style and substance of the mediæval monogatari; portions of the well-known Tosa Nikki (Tosa Journal) are condensed; of the universally popular 'Chiushingura' the outline is told; and of one of the best, perhaps (but not the very best), of the novels of Bakin—"the Japanese Scott"—a brief epitome is presented. The best of these stories are undoubtedly the 'Chiushingura,' or 'Loyal League,' long since translated by Mr. Dickins, and Mistress Añ's half-regretful narrative, told in early Tokugawa days, of the bloody times of her youth, when the great Gongensama extinguished the rivalry of the feudal barons and closed the long struggle that began with the wars between Satsuma and Hideyoshi, to end in the supremacy of the Tokugawa house that was to endure for nearly two centuries and a half, itself to cease with the re-enthronement of the Mikado, heralded by the cannon of Commodore Perry. But more interesting still than the stories, which, despite a certain quaintness of conception, are equally wanting in point, humour, pathos, or skill in narration—to tell the truth, Japanese literature, with rare exceptions, is insufferably dull and prolix—are Mr. Taka-yanagi's own recollections of the last years of old Japan, with which the volume closes. "Each day," to make one quotation,

"Each day," to make one quotation,
"awkened by the noise of a universal clapping of
hands—the entire population of the city greeting
the morning sun—he [the present writer, Mr.
Takayanagi] has risen to an early breakfast of tea
and salt prunes, intended more as a sort of sacrament to purify the soul than as food to nourish the
body. After the daily hot bath and worship at the
household shrine of Buddha came a more substantial
meal of bean soup, boiled rice, and pickled radishes
[the famous daikon, of which the odour, Miss
Bird tells us, has made many a brave man flee]; and
then the walk to school through the walled Samurai
quarter, a belt of cultivated ground and scattered Bird tells us. has made many a brave man flee]; and then the walk to school through the walled Samurai quarter, a belt of cultivated ground and scattered dwellings drawn close around the castle, and itself enclosed on all sides by the multitudinous roofs of the city. Each house stood in its own rice-fields and vegetable gardens, irrigated by channels drawn from the river, which here came out to the light after a subterranean course through the lower town [Saga in Hizen]. The stream circled through the castle moat, gay in summer with the huge pink blossoms of the lotus, and passed out again in darkness, running under crowded streets and close-packed houses. The citizens were required to show their wooden pass-tickets at the gates before they were permitted to enter the castle precincts. At school we were taught to read and write Chinese as well as Japanese, and on cold winter nights, in a big annex to the school building, we practised fencing with bamboo swords and wooden spears, and also wrestling in the Japanese manner, calculated to give strength and suppleness to every portion of the body. In summer we had games of polo, and were taught to shoot with bow and arrow from horseback. In fact, we were trained as though we were still in the Middle Ages."

It is to be regretted that Mr. Takayanagi re-

It is to be regretted that Mr. Takayanagi repeats the stupid libel on the murdered English-

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man Richardson, whom he charges with the incredibly silly exploit of "spurring his horse in a spirit of bravado [though accompanied by a lady] into the ranks of a [Daimio's] procession "numbering some thousands of retainers. The absolute groundlessness of this accusation is sufficiently shown in the despatches of the period, and more recently in the 'Life of Sir Harry Parkes. The authors, who see in Japan a country that comes as near as possible in this imperfect world to the ideal condition of altruism, regard its literature as one of form without much substance. Korea, China, and Formosa may have something to say to the former assertion; with the latter we agree, but the form is "common Of Lieut. Dickens's translation of the 'Taketori Monogatari' we have not heard. We have seen one by Mr. Dickins, who translated the 'Chiushingura.' The versions given of some of the curious prefaces to the 'Fugaku Hyakkei' ('Hundred Views of Fuji') seem to have been taken from the translation of Hokusai's celebrated work published some years ago, with some alterations, but no acknowledgment — a proceeding not out of keeping with the American origin of the book before us.

BOOKS FOR THE YOUNG.

Flix and Flox, by Mrs. Heathcote Statham (Blackie & Son), is a pretty tale of a tiny brother and sister who, in their beautiful Cornish home, learned to think for others and to do what they could for the little children pent up in the slums of great cities. 'Flix and Flox' is a very small book, but it is all good, and, moreover, it is attractive.—Miss E. Everett-Green in Squib and his Friends (Nelson & Sons) furnishes a delightful glimpse into child life. Squib, "the odd one" in his family, is not an ordinary lad. He is one who thinks and has the power of expressing his thoughts. He is a brave and engaging little fallows and attracts to him faintly. fellow, and attracts to him friends worth having, and the story of his doings with his friends is

When readers hear that Every Inch a Sailor (Nelson & Sons) is from the pen of Dr. Gordon Stables, they will know what to expect. Frederick Augustus Norval Gay is as frank and as brave and as capable as all the Doctor's heroes, and his adventures are every whit as marvellous as those over which boys are accustomed to pore. When they first make Fred's acquaintance he is a lad of twelve, living in a beautiful and luxurious home; but the spell of the sea is on him, and he breaks away.—For Duty's son him, and he breaks away.—For Duty's Sake (Jarrold & Sons) is a collection of "stirring stories of noble lives" told by Miss Mary Douglas, who begins the tale with that "friend of the friendless," Lord Shaftesbury, harks back to Nelson, Sir John Franklin, and John Howard, and gives also the strange and wonderful stories of Sister Dora and of

Father Damien.

The "Fifty-two Library" is growing apace. Some of its volumes are excellent, others not so good. Fifty-two Stories of Pluck, Peril, and Romance for Girls (Hutchinson & Co.) must fall, we are afraid, into the second class. Some of the tales are interesting enough, but many of them are trivial and hardly worth telling.— L. T. Meade is certainly more successful when she deals with children than when she attempts she deals with children than when she attempts to grapple with that very difficult creature the grown - up girl. A Little Mother to the Others (White & Co.) is the history of four fascinating little mortals, who surely have not merited their cruel fate. Their mother dies, their father goes off to the Himalayas, and they are left to the care of a well meaning. are left to the care of a well-meaning, but hard - hearted aunt, from whom they are stolen by gipsies, and then sold to circus folk. In spite of all these woes the book is quite charming, and will certainly be attractive to those who care for children, if not to the children themselves.—

Merry Girls of England, by the same author (Cassell & Co.), is of quite a different type. The girl heroines — who, by the way, are not particularly merry—being bereft of their parents and guardians, seek in divers ways to maintain themselves. The best of them take to farming, but the least interesting goes to London to write for a livelihood. We hear a good deal more of her than of her country sisters, and what we hear we do not much like. There is a good deal of mysterious and involved family history in 'Merry Girls of England'; the mystery has nothing to do with the literary Barbara and her farm sisters. Altogether the story does not hang together too perfectly, and we much prefer the tale of the stolen children with all its cares and sorrows.

Every Girl's Book, edited by Mrs. M. Whitley (Routledge), is a most useful and attractive volume, containing information and advice from writers altogether competent to instruct and advise on "all matters connected with girlish advise on "all matters connected with girlish sports, occupations, and pastimes." There are articles on gardening, on golf, on cycling—the last from the pen of Miss Lillias Campbell Davidson, the President of the Ladies' Cycling Association-and on all the other outdoor occupations and amusements which are dear to girls. Lady John Hay, who writes from practical experience, gives many excellent hints as to poultry rearing and dairy farming-two detightful occupations, which can be developed into paying professions. Home studies and many forms of indoor occupation and amusement occupy due space. Mrs. Conyers Morrell, an acknowledged authority on needlework, has revised and enlarged the section devoted to that all-important subject. The Duchess of Teck gives a most interesting account of "The Needlework Guild," of which she is president; and Lady James The Indiana. and Lady Jeune, who knows more than most of us of the modern training of girls, and has, moreover, the gift of bright and clear exposition, contributes some valuable articles on home studies, on the duties of girls in the way of district visiting, teaching poor children, and helping to bring brightness into the lives of others less happily situated than themselves. 'Every Girl's Book,' in its present form, ought to be widely known and studied.

The reader is introduced to many of the personages in The Zankiwank and the Bletherwitch, by S. J. Adair (Dent & Co.), at Charing Cross Station, whither they have rushed to catch the train for Fableland —a very clever illustration shows some of them in the act. Such a set of passengers were never seen, and well might Willie and Maud think that they themselves were dreaming. They sing, they dance, they rhyme, and make fun allthrough the book, with a bewildering effect—the whole book, indeed, instead of one part, might have been entitled 'Topsy Turvey Land.' It is full of gaiety and cleverness, and yet when we shut it we feel that "the indicative mood has been disturbed." To understand this allusion the book must be read, and somehow we cannot help thinking we have seen the volume before. Many of the "pictures" by Mr. Arthur Rackham are good and amusing.

SCOTTISH STORIES.

Kate Carnegie, and those Ministers. Maclaren. (Hodder & Stoughton.)—Dr. Watson's new book should be read by all Southrons who care to become acquainted with the inmost recesses of Scotch character of the better sort. Some of the personages who contribute to the life of these sketches and serve to consolidate the several scenes into a connected story are of our old acquaintance. The saintly Marget and her inappreciative husband, Drumsheugh, Burnbrae, Hillocks, and Jamie Soutar are all members of the society we wot of. Only the brave doctor seems missing from the familiar company. But his place is occupied by the striking figure of "Rabbi" Saunderson, a

single-hearted Calvinist saint, who, if any one, combines the love of man with the most slavish dread of God. Beyond and beneath his superficial eccentricities—his unexhausted appetite for books, his indifference and absence of mind about domestic trifles, his indiscriminate charity, his habit of turning his back to the wind for the convenience of taking snuff, and then pursuing the direction in which he finds his face—there is suggested a spiritual conflict, of which the pure soul and attenuated frame of the which the pure soul and attenuated frame of the Rabbi are the proper theatre. It is characteristic of our author's graver mood. The ways of the Presbytery and its clerk; the deft formalism with which they minimize the presentment of John Carmichael for heresy which has caused the Rabbi so many a pang, and indirectly costs him his life; the admirable description of the "occasion," or ministration of the sacrament; the humours of beadles and the housekeepers of bachelor ministers—all these are the fruit of considerable observation, and in suitable instances considerable observation, and in suitable instances abound in quiet humour. Excellent, too, is the account — founded, as the present writer well remembers, on sad fact—of the Glasgow Bank convulsion, a catastrophe foreseen by Dr. Davidson's beadle, horrified at the notion that his master has gone "fey." ("The best o's tempts Providence at a time, and when a man like the Doctor tries to rin aifter his dog, jidgment cama be far off.") Many readers will still more appreciate the description of Perth station in August, and of the commanding tactician who brings order out of the confusion of the trains. We know not whether the author is aware of that functionary's wrath on one of such occasions, functionary's wrath on one of such occasions, when a malicious traveller got the train stopped as it was quitting the platform, only to inquire sweetly, "Is this Joppie?"—a comparison of deadly insolence. For one of his good things, the absolution of the claret "after three several appearances," Dr. Watson should have acknowledged his obligation to Dean Ramsay. We have left ourselves no space to deal with the story; but, indeed, it is of the slightest. We note in Janet and Donald an aptitude for the appreciation of Highland character not very appreciation of Highland character not very common in Scotch novelists, and, on the whole, can honestly welcome a many-sided, if rather heterogeneous collection of sketches by one who knows his countrymen.

George Umber, the author of Ayrshire Idylls of other Days (A. Gardner), is, as he says, a senti-mentalist. It is also clear that he is a lover of our eighteenth century classics, and that he has acquired certain mannerisms from Charles Lamb. Apart from this, the even flow of reflection and Apart from this, the even flow of reflection and reminiscence, neither striking nor profound, will attract few readers, although for persons completely ignorant of Scotland such chapters as 'The Old Pew,' 'Between the Preachings,' &c., may possess something of novelty. It may be conceded that the author's descriptive style is fluent, and that the illustrations of Mr. William Findlay are passable. There is no excess of vernacular Scotch in the book and not a grain of humour.

book, and not a grain of humour.

The title of Mr. David Lyall's collection of religious stories, The Land of the Leal (Hodder & Stoughton), is probably used in its proper sense, not that unaccountably adopted by Mr. Gladstone. But the series, which is strung together loosely through the personality of 'Lisbeth Gray, the pious wife of "Staneriggs" the farmer, has to do with Scotland, and more particularly with South-Country farmers, miners, and "mer-chants." It cannot be said that the book is particularly exciting or shows a great deal of literary power. But some of the tales are pathetic, notably that entitled 'One of the Weak Things of the World,' which might, the sardonic will say, have been the title of the book. There is not any great extravagance in vernacular spelling or diction, though the author's own narrative is amusingly full of Scotticisms. On the whole, the work should be popular in religious singles. gious circles.

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#### BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Bibliographica. Parts VII. and VIII. (Kegan Paul & Co.)—In the two parts of Bibliographica, which complete the second volume of this sumptuous publication, the embellishment of both the interiors and the exteriors of books of both the interiors and the exteriors of books occupies the greater portion of the space. Half of the twelve articles to be found in the numbers deal solely with the beautifying of the book, the remainder with the making of the book, special books, and book-publishing. Those beautiful productions of the Venetian craftsmen beautiful productions or the Venetian cratsmen of the late fifteenth and early sixteenth cen-tury, the "Ducali," form the subject of an excellent article by Mr. J. W. Bradley, who points at the outset to the singular fact that at this period there is an almost entire cessation in the production of the sumptuous liturgical manuscripts which were so marked a feature of the immediately preceding This was not due to the absence of qualified craftsmen, but, it would seem, to a lack of interest at the moment in the production of such works, and perhaps to a slight accession of austerity. More probably still, however, it may be attributed to an increased civic activity, for we find that a company of craftsmen was formed we find that a company of cratismen was formed whose work and pride it was, as impressors, stampadors, and miniators, to produce exquisite specimens of the book-making art. To the zest kindled by the inauguration of such a guild we most likely owe the production of the "Ducali," most likely owe the production of the "Ducali," which Mr. Bradley classifies under four heads: "Promissioni," i. e., the oaths taken by the Doges; "Comissioni," the diplomas granted by them; "Capitolari," statutory commissions; and "Mariegole," statutes and regulations of the various orders and guilds of the province. The number of these documents was naturally considerable, and specimens have gradually found their way into various great libraries of Europe. Some idea of their character may be obtained from the illustrations given, which indicate a rare faculty for beauty of design.

Although the decoration of religious books in Venice during the period referred to was somewhat in abeyance, such work had been prosecuted with great energy only a few years before. This activity is much in evidence in the article on 'The Grotesque and Humorous in the Illuminations of the Middle Ages,' by Sir E. Maunde Thompson. He accounts for the anachronism which is so patent in these productions by assuming that the illuminations had little relevancy to the matter of the manuscripts, and were in no sense illustrations of the text. He assumes that such ornament was merely a matter of tradition; and the recurrence, in manuscripts of different schools, of varieties of ornamentation distinctive of each school, all agreeing in their irrelevancy, seems sufficient proof that the assumption is correct. The illustrations of this important article are well selected. One cannot but be struck with the Japanese or Chinese aspect of some of these grotesques, that on p. 313 being the most notable instance.

Mr. R. K. Douglas deals with 'Chinese Illustrated Books' in a way which leaves the reader somewhat undecided whether Chinese or Japanese artists are the better. The examples which he selects do not certainly suggest a very exalted opinion of the former, and, although they ornament was merely a matter of tradition; and

exalted opinion of the former, and, although they belong to different periods, exhibit universally the crudeness without beauty of line which, in this department at any rate, puts the Chinese sadly behind most other nations of whose art in book production anything is known.

Of a curious and intricate subject Mr. A. W. Pollard furnishes an excellent account in his article on 'The Transference of Woodcuts in the Fifon The Transference of Woodcuts in the Fit-teenth and Sixteenth Centuries. It has been found that some of the illustrations of books printed in France, Germany, and Italy are also to be found in books printed in England, and the question as to the method of procedure

is interesting enough to spur on the investigator to fresh efforts with every new find. Such transferences may have been made in various ways: woodcuts may have been bought, borrowed, or stolen, and undoubtedly each of these three methods was adopted in various these three methods was adopted in various cases. In borrowing or buying, the original block or a replica of it, either in wood or soft metal, would be transferred; but in the stealing, or, as copyright was in those days an unknown quantity, we should, perhaps, say the appropriation process, the design only was used, either entirely or in part, as the basis of a new picture, varying more or less in detail. A whole series of such variations has been traced by Mr. Pollard, and one of the commonest and most readily observed appropriations occurs in the frequent renewals designs, where the right side becomes the left and contrariwise. Such reversals were made in two ways: either by the copyist transferring the design to his block by pasting it on and cutting through the impression, or by his simply copying it more or less closely from the print, and then cutting in the usual way. Many amusing instances of his researches are given by the

author of this fruitful paper.

The exterior ornamentation of books is dealt with in an article on 'The Decoration of Book Edges,' in which Mr. Cyril Davenport gives us a sketch of this form of craft work from its inception in the fourteenth century. Discarding the theory that the original germ of such decoration is to be found in the practice sometimes adopted of inscribing the title on the edges instead of the binding, when it was customary for books to lie on their sides, Mr. Davenport traces it back to the period when Byzantine influence in European art was still potent. Such decoration resolves itself into three divisions: in the first the edges were either left plain or painted a natural colour, upon which the design was drawn; the second, in which the edges were gilded and then worked upon with binders' tools, towards the end of the sixteenth century, entirely superseded the first class; and the third, originating in the latter half of the seventeenth, reappears about the close of the eighteenth century in England. This last class, which is the most elaborate, consists of paintings of portraits, landscapes, and conventional and heraldic designs, which are generally only visible when the leaves of the book are sloped. Examples of each of these classes are described, and the descriptions illustrated with some beautiful colour reproductions.

In 'The Book-plates of J. Skinner of Bath,' Mr. W. J. Hardy provides lovers of ex-libris Mr. W. J. Hardy provides lovers of ex-tions with a subject deserving even closer study than he has himself been able at present to give to it. He has discovered a few more particulars than those given by Lord de Tabley, but even now the information about this excellent designer and friend of Gainsborough is but scanty. The high character of his work may be well seen in the numerous reproductions of book-plates from his hand which accompany the

Two special books are dealt with in these Two special books are dealt with in these numbers in 'Notes on the Latin Bible of Forty-two Lines, 1455,' by Mr. Russell Martineau, and 'Puckle's Club,' by Mr. Austin Dobson. The former is a careful collation of a considerable number of copies of the Mainz Bible ascribed to Gutenberg, the results of which are somewhat remarkable, not to say confusing, although treated by Mr. Martineau in as luminous a manner as was possible where so much that seems unmeaning has to be accounted for. Mr. Austin Dobson writes charmingly of James Puckle, notary, inventor, speculator, and author, who in 1711 issued 'The Club; or, a Dialogue between Father and Son.' As we have spoken of him in noticing 'Eighteenth Century Vignettes' in another column, we need only here mention the biographical details. 'The Club' itself, with its sub-title 'A Grey

Cap for a Green Head,' as it first appeared in the edition of 1723, is bibliographically described and critically appraised. In both aspects it has a very considerable interest, for it ran through several editions, one of which was of the most sumptuous character, and its moral maxims are by no means inelegantly expressed or devoid of that humour which is the most effective ally of morality.

The history of printing is further elucidated by part iii. of Mr. W. H. Allnutt's 'English Provincial Presses,' in which he treats of the private press of Sir Henry Savile at Eton; the King's Printer at Newcastle on-Tyne in 1639; and the presses of the Civil War and the Revo-lution. To the description of these is added a valuable chronology of the provincial presses from the end of the seventeenth century to the close of the first half of the eighteenth. Mr. Henry R. Plomer deals with 'John Rastell and his Contemporaries' in an article rendered possible by his discovery at the Record Office of an important document relating to the famous printing-house the "Mermaid next Paul's Gate." This find, which belongs to the years 1534-5, enables him to make an interesting and valuable contribution to the history of printing and publishing in London, for the details of it indicate many intricate customs as to the relations of printer, pub-lisher, and bookseller, which certainly wil be henceforth much more easily intelligible. Mr. E. D. North contributes an article on 'American Book Clubs,' which is not at all interesting on account of the paucity of the material at his command; and Mr. Falconer Madan says a good word for the Bibliographical Society, and insists very rightly upon the absurdity of limiting the number of its members.

Transactions of the Bibliographical Society. Vol. II. Part II., Vol. III. Part I. (The Society.) — These Transactions, although less elaborately printed than the numbers of Bibliographica, are intrinsically no less valuable, for some of the papers are of the most useful description and by their nature of a more exhaustive character than any to be found elsewhere. With the exception of to be found elsewhere. With the exception of the presidential address, which deals for the part with disconnected generalities, the most part with disconnected generalities, the contributions to these two parts are complete studies on particular and erudite points in bibliography, which once settled are not likely to be dealt with again for many years to come. Dr. Copinger contributes a paper of this kind, which is added to his vague presidential utterance, although it has but the faintest connexion with it. This vague presidential utterance, although it has but the faintest connexion with it. This is his 'Incunabula Virgiliana,' which consists of a list of editions of Virgil printed during the fifteenth century. Mr. G. F. Barwick on 'The Lutheran Press at Wittenberg' throws into relief some curious literary piracies which would hardly be likely to occur to day. would hardly be likely to occur to day. Sermons and religious tracts formed the sub-Sermons and religious tracts formed the subject of such proceedings then. Some good illustrations accompany this article as well as that by Mr. E. F. Strange on 'The Writing-Books of the Sixteenth Century.' Mr. Strange's researches into the history of alphabets must have led him into this by-path, but for the excursion we cannot be too grateful. Mr. G. R. Redgrave deals with 'Some Early Book-Illustrations of the Oppenheim Press,' in which his attention is very largely occupied with the work of Jacob Köbel. The first book printed at Oppenheim was in 1494, but there does not seem to exist any dated book of Köbel's before 1505 or after 1524. But there is an "I. K." signature to many fine wood-blocks which were used in books printed as late as 1545, and used in books printed as late as 1545, and Jacob Köbel, known to be an engraver who used to write prefaces as well as to print them, and was also town clerk, may possibly be this "I. K.," although Mr. Redgrave is unable to establish the point satisfactorily. The most practical and valuable contribution to these

Transactions is the 'List of Books and Papers on Printing under the Countries and Towns to which They Refer, which was begun by the late Talbot Baines Reed and has been continued and edited by Mr. A. W. Pollard. The thanks of all bibliographers and librarians are due to the editor of this list for the trouble spent over his task and for the completeness with which he has accomplished it. It is a work which should cer-tainly be issued separately for use as a handbook for all cataloguers, literary students, librarians, and bibliographers, and we hope shortly to see it in this form.

### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

The second instalment of the magnificent edition of Mr. Meredith's complete works which Messrs. Constable are publishing, Vols. III. and IV., contains Evan Harrington. Those who enjoyed its perusal when it appeared in Once a Week must now be a limited circle; but the book is as delightful reading now as it was then.

ALL lovers of the country and the "happy garden state" will welcome the new edition of The Plant-lore and Garden-craft of Shakespeare, by H. N. Ellacombe (Arnold), which is now pleasantly illustrated with scenes from Shakspeare's country and little sketches of flowers.

The claims of the marsh marigold to be the Elizabethan flower of that name are rightly rejected; but the illustration (p. 165) clearly represents Caltha palustris, though simply labelled "Marigold." We may note that "keck" or "kex" is a term used for all the larger Umbelliferæ in their growing state. It is a pity that in this new edition the index, which is deficient, has not been improved. Read also Wither for "Withers" twice on p. 167.

SIR HENRY CUNNINGHAM'S excellent monograph Lord Bowen: a Biographical Sketch, is no doubt already known to several of our readers, and has now been issued for the general public by Mr. Murray. It well deserves a wide circulation, for it is an eminently readable memoir of a remarkable man. The frontispiece

is a capital likeness.

MESSES. GEDDES, of Edinburgh, have published a pretty centenary edition of The Poems of Ossian, translated by James Macpherson. The handsome volume would be the better had the publishers dispensed with Mr. W. Sharp's injudicious introduction. Mr. Sharp is not to our knowledge a Celtic scholar, and even if he were the dogmatic tone in which he writes on the Ossianic question would be out of place.—The two newest additions to the "Canterbury Poets" (Scott) contain Browning's 'Pauline,' 'Para-celsus,' and his plays from 1833 to 1850. The volumes sent to us are bound in art linen, and contain a great deal in a small space. The contain a great deal in a small space. reading public will doubtless appreciate in this convenient and neat form A Blot in the 'Scutcheon and other Poetic Dramas and Pippa Passes and other Poetic Dramas. Mr. Rinder's prefatory notes are rather verbose.

WE are glad to receive again such a practical and convenient volume as Dod's Peerage, Baronetage, and Knightage (Sampson Low & Co.). It is an excellent compilation, still distigured by an advertisement on the back of its cloth binding .- The useful Almanach Hachette (Hachette) is once more on our table. It is a marvel of ingenuity, and contains a wonderful quantity of information of very various sorts. - The Catholic Directory (Burns & Oates) has reached the respectable age of sixty. It is a useful and well-arranged handbook.

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS. ENGLISH. Theology.

Ante-Nicene Christian Library, Additional Volume, edited by A. Menzies, imp. 8vo. 12/6 cl. Duggan's (Rev. J.) Life of Christ, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.

Holme's (H.) The Oldest Christian Church, cr. 8vo. 2/8 cl.
Liddon's (H. P.) Sermons preached on Special Occasions,
1860-1889, cr. 8vo. 5/cl.
Loxley's (Rev. A. P.) The Catholic Revival, and other
Bermons, cr. 8vo. 3/6 net.
Macdonald's (Rev. M.) The Covenanters of Moray and
Ross, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
Mackay's (Rev. J.) Jonathan the Friend of David, 3/6 cl.
St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Life and Works, edited by Dom J.
Mabilion, translated by Kales, Vols. 3 and 4, 8vo. 12/ net.
Vaughan's (Right Rev. Mgr. J. S.) Thoughts for all Times,
cr. 8vo. 5/cl.
Fine Art. Fine Art.

Sinigaglia's (L.) Climbing Reminiscences of the Dolomites, Édition de Luxe, 8vo. 105/ net.

Poetry.

Poetry.

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Poetry.

A. R. J., cr. 8vo. 5/ net.

atson's (W) The Year of Shame, with Introduction by

Bishop of Hereford, 12mo. 2/6 net.

History and Biography.

Houston's (D. F.) Harvard Historical Studies, Vol. 3, 6/cl.

Jusserand's (J. J.) Romance of a King's Life, cr. 8vo. 21/net.

Philology.

Weekley's (E.) Higher French Reader, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.

Science.
Butler-Smythe's (A. C.) First Series of Fifty-four Consecu-

tive ovariotomies, 8v. 6.% cl.
Rdmonds (H.) and Marloth's (R.) Elementary Botany for South Africa, cr. 8vo. 4% cl.
Seebohm's (H.) Coloured Figures of the Hggs of British Birds, edited by R. B. Sharpe, royal 8vo. 6%) net.

General Literature.

General Literature.

Beyle's (Marie Henii) La Chartreuse de Parme, translated by E. P. Robins, 3 vols. 12mo. 21/ net.
Crump's (A.) wide Asunder as the Poles, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.
Parniugham's (M.) In Evening Lights, 12mo. 2/6 cl.
Osgood's (I.) The Chant of a Lonely Soul, smail 4to. 21/ net.
Swinstead's (Rev. J. H.) A Parish on Wheels, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
Thompson (N. G.) and Cannan's (F. L.) Hand-in-Hand
Figure Skating, 16mo. 6/ cl.

#### FOREIGN.

FOREIGN,
Theology.
Bacher (W.): Die Bibelexegese Moses Maimûni's, 4m.
Breviarium Ambrosianum, 4 vols. 11m. 50.
Corpus Reformatorum: Vol. 84, J. Calvini Opera que
supersunt omnia, 12m.
Harnack (A.): Geschichte der altchristlichen Litteratur bis
Eusebius: Part 1, Die Chronologie, 25m.
Holtzmanu (H. J.): Neutestamentl. Theologie, Parts 7 and 8,
2m.

Zenner (J. K.): Die Chorgesänge im Buche der Psalmen,

10m.

Fine Art and Archeology.

Detzel (H.): Christiiche Ikonographie, Vol. 2, 9m.

Künge (H.): Die Schrift der Mykenier, 8m.

Künstler-Monographien: Part 17, Defregger, von A. Rosen-

kunstier-Monographien: 1 march, berg, 3m.

Pernice (E.): Griechisches Pferdegeschirr im Antiquarium der königl. Museen, 4m.

Schneell (G.): Renaissance in der Schweiz, 10m.

Ströhl (H. G.): Deutsche Wappenrolle, 40m.

Tsar (Le) et la Tsarine en France, 100fr.

Music.

Musique Française Moderne, 3fr. 50.

Bibliography,
Dziatzko (K.): Beiträge zur Kenntnis des Schrift-, Buchu. Bibliothekswesens, 6m.
Stammhammer (J.): Bibliographie der Social-Politik, 18m.

Philosophy.

Förster-Nietzsche (E.): Das Leben Friedrich Nietzsche's. Vol. 2, Part 1, 8m. Ritschl (O.): Nietzsche's Welt- u. Lebensanschauung, 1m.

History and Biography.

Bassermann (A.): Dantes Spuren in Italien, 40m.

Hagenmeyer (H.): Galterii Cancellarii Bella Antiochena,
12m.

Geography and Travel.
Noguères (E.): Arménie, 3fr. 50.
Sabersky (H.): E. Winter in Aegypten, 4m. 50.

Philology.

Bezold (C.): Semitistische Studien, Parts 10 and 11, 20m.

Mätzner (B.) u. Bieling (H.): Altenglische Sprachproben:

Part 2. Wörterbuch, 8m.

Schlagintweit (B.): Sureçamatibhadra, die Berechnung der

Schisginiweit (a): Sartyamarken Libre, 3m. 60.

Wülfing (J. K.): Die Syntax in den Werken Alfreds des Grossen: Vol. 2, Part 1, Zeitwort, 8m.

Zimmermann (E. R.): Die Geschichte des lateinischen Suffixes arius in den romanischen Sprachen, 6m.

General Literature. Rosegger (P.): Dans ma Forêt, 3fr. 50. Vingt-cinq Ans de République, 1fr.

#### THE HEAD MASTERS' CONFERENCE.

THE Head Masters' Conference met at Rugby on Tuesday, December 22nd, and was received with the usual lavish hospitality. The attendance, however, was disappointing, quite half the members being absent. The meetings were held in New Big School, a handsome building, The meetings were but somewhat defective in acoustic properties, at least when a speaker addresses the platform from the body of the hall. The agenda paper was unusually long, but many of the motions were merely instructions to the Committee which did not require much discussion. The

most important events of the meeting occupied only a few minutes, and are barely noticed in any report. It was agreed unanimously, en the motion of Mr. Welldon (Harrow), that the Committee of the Conference should co-operate with that of the Head Masters' Association to secure the creation of a strong central Council of Education; and it was agreed, also unanimously, on the motion of Dr. Gray (Bradfield), that the Conference should meet every alternate year in London. Both these resolutions are likely tohave serious consequences in the near future.

Proceedings began on Tuesday with a vote of condolence with the family of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, who was formerly a master at Rugby. Mr. Keeling (Bradford) then moved "That the organization of secondary education is a matter of pressing necessity, and the Government should be urged to deal with the question in the next session of Parliament." Dr. Gow (Nottingham) opposed on the ground that neither the country nor the profession was yet ready for legislation. He called attention to several topics of vital interest which, he said, had not been discussed at all, and asserted. that the apparent unanimity of many professional meetings was quite illusory. In this opinion he was supported by Mr. Selwyn (Uppingham), and the debate threatened to last the whole two days, when Mr. Welldon intervened to remind members that the Conference had passed the same resolution last year, and could not decently refuse to pass it again. After some conversation and a few disorderly speeches, the motion was carried by thirty-thee votes to ping. De Lance carried by thirty-three votes to nine. Dr. James (Rugby) then moved "That the new regulations Woolwich examinations will not be satisfactory unless the number of subjects a candidate can take up is diminished by at least one, and that a heavy one, below the present number." Many animated complaints followed from Mr. Furneaux (Repton), Mr. Laffan (Cheltenham), and others; but ultimately the Conference preferred a resolution, proposed by Mr. Bell (Marlborough), "That the new regulations for Woolwich examinations involve a disastrous increase of the burden of a curriculum which is already too heavy for candidates of the required age." It does not seem tohave occurred to anybody to remark that this appeal for mercy was in striking contradiction to the "liberty, variety, and elasticity" which, as we were informed at Cambridge, are cha-racteristic of our public schools. The discusas we were informed at Cambridge, at Cambridge, at Cambridge, and a cambridge and a conversation of private business, the dinner in Old Big School, and a very pleasant conversazione in the Art Museum concluded the day.

Business on Wednesday was so brisk that seven motions were carried in little more than three hours. First, the Committee was in-structed to continue its communications with various bodies which undertake the training of teachers, and also to collect information in regard to the dismissal of assistant masters without appeal. Mr. Lyttelton (Haileybury) then proposed that the commanding officers of school volunteer corps should be asked to form a committee to report "on the existing condition of the school volunteer movement, and the means of increasing its efficiency." Dunn (Bath) protested against militarism in the schools, on the ground that it fostered the vice of unreasoning obedience; but the motion was carried, with a rider that the War Office should be invited to send an assessor to the Committee. The perennial complaint was then renewed against the dates appointed for scholarship examinations at the universities, and it was suggested by Dr. Gray that head masters should not allow boys to enter for any scholarships offered between Michaelmas and Christmas. This remedy seemed likely to produce a conflict with parents, and was not approved; but it was decided to make the usual representations to the college authorities. Mr. Moss (Shrewsbury) proposed that representations should also be mad of cand He had fellows been d mities, that t Comm School subjec chola Mr. D that a many tion 1

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be made in order to secure better supervision of candidates for scholarships and matriculation. of candidates of schools and that some boys were injured by the unwise hospitality of their old school-fellows, that candidates under examination had been disturbed by a noise in the college kitchens, &c. Other head masters related other enormities, and it was agreed that the Committee should institute inquiries. Mr. Welldon moved that the Committee should consult with the Committee of Head Masters of Preparatory Schools, in order "to relieve the congestion of subjects" now required in examinations for scholarships and for entrance at public schools. Mr. Dunn, if we are not mistaken, contended that a boy should learn at first a little of a great many subjects, and that the proposed restricmany subjects, and that the proposed restriction might operate as an outrage upon the holiness of childhood. These opinions, however, were so imperfectly heard that they did not affect the debate. Dr. James, with the concurrence of Dr. Warre (who was prevented by illness from attending the Conference), moved that, whatever else was dropped, Greek should still be required; and after the original resolution had been carried unanimously, this rider tion had been carried unanimously, this rider was also carried by eighteen votes to fourteen. Very few members remained to hear the motion of Mr. Culley (Monmouth) in favour of a decimal system of weights and measures, which was carried unanimously. The usual votes of thanks to Dr. James and his colleagues were then passed, and the Conference adjourned, to east seein in London payt December. meet again in London next December.

#### GENERAL MEREDITH READ, F.S.A.

THE death of General Meredith Read, which occurred after a brief illness at his residence in Paris on Sunday last, will be heard of with deep regret by the large circle of his friends in Europe and in America. There is something almost tragic in this event, which has fallen on the moment when the closing chapters of a work which had occupied many years of his life were under revision.

General Meredith Read was the son of an eminent jurist, Chief Justice Read, of Pennsyl-vania (grandson of George Read, signer of the Declaration of Independence), and was born in 1837. He was educated in a military academy, and afterwards graduated at Brown University, Rhode Island. He graduated at the Albany Law School in 1859, studied international law in Europe, and was admitted to the bar in Philadelphia. Having removed to Albany, he was made Adjutant-General of New York in 1860, and served through the civil war with distinc-He afterwards became interested in early American history, the most important of his contributions being an 'Historical Inquiry con-cerning Heinrich Hudson, his Friends, Relatives, and Early Life, his Connexion with the Muscovy Company, and Discovery of Delaware Bay,'
Albany, 1866; reprinted in abridged form
among the Clarendon Society's Reports, 1882.
In 1869 he was appointed United States Consul-General for France and Algeria, and in 1873 Minister in Greece, a post he occupied until 1879, and it was mainly through his endeavours that restrictions on the sale of the Bible in Greece were removed. The king conferred on him the Grand Cross of the Order of the Redeemer. General Read rendered important services to eminent Englishmen during that period, and his friendship for this country was accompanied by extensive studies of its history. While at Athens he contributed to the Archæo-'The Death of Philip Henry, Fifth Earl of Stanhope.' At the Gibbon Exhibition in London his loan of the historian's Bible attracted much attention.

General Read's contributions to historical research, though valuable, as the columns of the Athenœum attest, have not been voluminous, for the reason that for many years he devoted

his life to the large work now nearly through the press. An early enthusiasm for Gibbon led him, on his retirement from public life, to make a pilgrimage to Lausanne, with the result of a temporary residence there, and researches which ultimately filled one or two rooms of his house in Paris with historical documents and These relate not merely to ancient Swiss cities and celebrities, but to those of Savoy and other regions, and include many letters of eminent men which have never seen the light, among these a number written by Voltaire. It is known to those intimate with General Read that he had for some twenty years been working on these materials, while also adding to them, and that the work when it appears cannot fail to be a monument of unwearied research and labour.

The General was a high-minded generous gentleman, who through his military and diplomatic career had preserved a youthful simplicity, frankness, and impulsiveness. His beautiful home in the Rue la Boëtie was a centre of hospitality, and he numbered among his friends many French men of letters as well as statesmen, whom he entertained by his conversation, always rich in experience and information. His decease will be deeply deplored by those who have enjoyed his friendship, who best know his large affectionate heart and his restationate

heart and his perfect integrity.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE WRITINGS OF ROBERT BROWNING.

PART VI.-COMPLETE VOLUMES OF BIOGRAPHY AND CRITICISM.

(9.)Robert Browning | The Thoughts of a Poet on Art and Faith. | A Lecture | Delivered to the Birmingham Central Literary Association, | March 27th, 1885. | By | Howard S. Pearson. | Price Sixpence. | Published for the Committee of the Birmingham Central Literary Association, by | Cornish Brothers, 37, New

Collation: - Demy quarto, pp. 27: consisting of Title-page, as above (with imprint in centre of reverse), pp. 1-2; and Text, pp. 3-27.

Issued in drab-coloured paper wrappers, on front page of which is a reprint of the title.

(10.)

A Handbook | to the Works of | Robert Browning | by | Mrs. Sutherland Orr. | "No pause i' the leading and the light!" | 'The Ring and the Book,' vol. iii. p. 70. | London: George Bell & Sons, | York Street, Covent Garden. | 1885. | [The right of translation is

reserved.]

Collation:—Foolscap octavo, pp. xiii and 332: consisting of Half-title (with blauk reverse), pp. i-ii;
Title-page, as above (with imprint at bottom of reverse), pp. iii-iv; Preface, pp. v-vi; Errata and Note to 'Artemis Prologuizes', p. vii; p. viii is blank; Contents, pp. ix-xiii; Text, pp. 1-328; and Index, pp. 329-332.

Issued in olive-green cloth boards, lettered in gilt across the back "Handbook | to | Robert | Browning's | Works | Mrs. S. Orr | George Bell and Sons."

The above is the collation of the first edition of this work; but there have been several subsequent editions, in which various corrections, &c., have been made.

Miss Alma Murray's | Constance | in | Robert Browning's 'In a Balcony.' | A paper by | B. L. Mosely, LLB. | Barrister at Law. | Read to the Browning Society on the 27th of February, 1885. | Reprinted from the Theatre for May, 1885. | For private distribution only. | London, 1885

Collation:—Octavo, pp. 8: consisting of Titlepage, as above (with blank reverse), pp. 1-2; and Text, pp. 3-8.

Text, pp. 3-8.

Issued in cream-tinted wrapper, on the first page of which is printed "Miss Alma Murray's | Constance | in | Robert Browning's 'In a Balcony.' | A paper by | B. L. Mosely, LL.B. | Barrister-at-Law."

Sordello's Story | Retold in Prose | by | Annie Wall | [Publishers' device.] Boston and New |

York | Houghton, Mifflin and Company | The Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1886.

Collation:—Crown octavo, pp. 145: consisting of Title-page, as above (with "copyright" in centre and imprint at foot of reverse), pp. 1-2; Dedication (with blank reverse), pp. 3-4; quotation from Dante (with blank reverse), pp. 5-6; and Text, pp. 7-145. Issued in dark-yellow cloth boards, gilt lettered across the back "Sordello's Story | Annie Wall | Houghton, Mifflin & Co."

An | Introduction | to the Study of | Robert Browning's Poetry. | By | Hiram Corson, LL.D. | Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature in the | Cornell University. | "Subtlest Assertor of the Soul in song." | Boston : | D. C. Heath & Co., Publishers. | 1886.

Collation:—Crown octavo, pp. x and 338: consisting of Title-page, as above (with "copyright" in centre, and imprint at foot, of the reverse), pp. i-ii; Motto (with blank reverse), pp iii-ii; Preface, pp. v-vii; p. viii is blank; Contents, pp. ix-x; and Text,

pp. 1-338.

Issued in dark-blue cloth boards, lettered in gilt across the back "Introduction | to | Browning | Corson | D. C. Heath & Co | Boston."

Robert Browning's Poetry | "The development of a soul; little else is worth study" |
Outline Studies | Published for the Chicago
Browning Society | Chicago | Charles H. Kerr
& Company | 175 Dearborn Street | 1886.

Collation:—Crown octavo, pp. 50: consisting of Title-page (with "copyright" in centre of reverse), pp. 1-2; Contents (with prefatory note on reverse), pp. 3-4; and Text, pp. 5-50.

Issued in light-yellow paper wrapper, with "Robert Browning's Poetry" printed across centre.

(15.) Sordello: | A History and a Poem. | By Caroline H. Dall. | Boston: | Roberts Brothers.

Collation:—Octavo, pp. 36: consisting of Title-page, as above (with reverse containing notice of copyright, and imprint, in centre and at foot re-spectively), pp. 1-2; Prefatory "Note," pp. 3-4; and Text, pp. 5-36.

Issued in light-grey wrapper, on front page of which the title is reprinted.

An | Introduction | to | the Study of | Browning | by | Arthur Symons | Cassell & Company, Limited | London, Paris, New York, & Melbourne | 1886 | [All rights reserved.]

Collation:—Crown octavo, pp. viii and 216: consisting of Title-page (with quotation from Landor on reverse), pp. i-ii; Dedication to George Meredith (with blank reverse), pp. ii-iv; Preface, pp. v-vi; Contents (with blank reverse), pp. vii-viii; and Text pp. 1.216

Contents (with blank reverse), pp. vii-viii; and Text, pp. 1-216. Issued in dark-green bevelled boards, lettered in-gilt across the back "Introduction | to | Browning | Symons."

Studies in the Poetry | of | Robert Browning | by | James Fotheringham | London | Kegaw Paul, Trench & Co., 1 Paternoster Square |

Collation:—Crown octavo, pp. xii and 382: consisting of Title-page (with quotations on reverse), pp. i-ii; Preface, pp. iii-viii; Contents, pp. ixx; Reference List of Poems, pp. xi-xii; and Text,

pp. 1-382.

Issued in dark-blue cloth boards, lettered across back "Studies | in the | Poetry | of | Robert | Browning | Fotheringham | Kegan Paul, Trench & Co." The front page of cover is also lettered "Studies in the Poetry | of Robert Browning."

Robert Browning: | Chief Poet of the Age. |
An Essay | Addressed primarily to Beginners
in the Study of | Browning's Poems | By | William G. Kingsland | London | J. W. Jarvis &
Son | 28 King William Street, Strand | 1887.

Collation:—Square 16mo, pp. 47: consisting of Title-page (with blank reverse), pp. 1-2; Dedicatory Sonnet "to Robert Browning" (with blank reverse), pp. 3-4; and Text, pp. 5-47. The imprint is in centre

of reverse of last page.

Issued in drab-coloured paper boards on which the title-page was reprinted. A portrait of Mr. Browning forms the frontispiece. Thirty copies on large hand-made paper were also issued.

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[Second Edition.]

Robert Browning: | Chief Poet of the Age. | By | William G. Kingsland | New Edition, | With Biographical and other Additions | | ondon: | J. W. Javvis & Son, | 28 King London : | J. William Street, Strand | 1890.

Collation:—Small octavo, pp. vi and 136: consisting of Half-title (with blank reverse), pp. ii-ii; Title-page (with imprint on reverse), pp. iii-iv; Preface, pp. v-vii; Dedicatory Sonnet, p. viii; and Text, pp. 1-136. The imprint is repeated at foot of leat page

Issued in fawn-coloured cloth boards, lettered across back "Browning | Kingsland | 1890." A portrait of Mr. Browning forms the frontispiece. Fifty copies were also printed on large hand-made paper.

(19.)Sordello | An Outline Analysis of | Mr. Browning's Poem | by | Jeanie Morison | author of | 'The Purpose of the Ages'; 'Gordon: an Our Day Idyll'; | 'Ane Booke of Ballades.' etc. | William Blackwood and Sons | Edinburgh and London | MDCCCLXXXIX, | All Rights reserved.

reserved.

Collation:—Crown octavo, pp. vi and 115: consisting of Half-title (with blank reverse), pp. i-i-i; Title-page (with blank reverse), pp. iii-iv; Dedication to the Members of the Edinburgh Women-Students' Browning Club, with blank reverse, pp. v-vi; and Text, pp. 1-115. The imprint is at the foot of the last page.

Issued in dark-red cloth boards, with trimmed edges, and lettered in gilt across back "Analysis of | Sordello | Jeanie | Morison | Wm. Blackwood | & Sons."

(20.)
Robert Browning. | Nineteenth Century
Authors. | Louise Manning Hodgkins. | D. C.

Authors. | Louise Maining Hougains. | D. C. Heath & Co., Boston. [1889.] Collation:—Small octavo, pp. ii and 8: consisting of Title-page, as above (with blank reverse), pp. i-ii; Text, pp. 1-4; blank pages headed "Notes," pp. 5-7; and notices of the series of "Guides to the Study of Nineteenth Century Authors," p. 8.

Issued stitched, without wrappers.

(21.)
Robert Browning | Personalia | by | Edmund
Gosse | Boston and New York | Houghton,
Mifflin and Company | The Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1890.

Cambridge | 1890.

Collation:—Crown octavo, pp. 96: consisting of Title (with imprint in centre of reverse), pp. 1-2; Preface, pp. 3-9 (blank reverse, p. 10); Contents (with blank reverse), pp. 11-12; Half-title (with blank reverse), pp. 13-14; Text, pp. 15-96.

Issued in Indian red cloth boards, with gilt top, and lettered in gilt on front cover "Robert Browning | Personalia | By Edmund | Gosse'; also lettered across back "Robert | Browning | Personalia | Gosse | Houghton | Mifflin & Co." There is a portrait of Robert Browning as frontispiece.

| Gosse | Houghton | Mifflin & Co." There is a portrait of Robert Browning as frontispiece.

A portion of the impression of this book was purchased by T. Fisher Unwin, who issued these copies in London with his own imprint upon the title-page and upon the cover, in place of that of Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. as detailed above. They were put up in vellum beveiled boards, gill lettered. There were also ten copies printed upon large paper. large paper.

(22.)Robert Browning. | Read before the | Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool. | April 28th, 1890. | By | Gerald H. Rendall.

Collation:—Demy octavo, pp. ii and 20: consisting of Title-page. as above (with blank reverse), pp. i-ii; and Text, pp. 1-20.

Issued in light mottled-grey wrapper, the front page of which contains a reprint of the title.

Life | of | Robert Browning | by | William Sharp | London : | Walter Scott, 24 Warwick Lane. | 1890. | (All rights reserved.)

Collation:—Large octavo, pp. ii, 219, and xxii: consisting of Half-title, pp. i-ii; Title-page, as above (with blank reverse), pp. 1-2; Contents, pp. 3-5; Prefatory "Note," pp. 9-10; Text, pp. 1-1212; Index, pp. 213-219; and Bibliography, pp. i-xxii. Issued in dark-blue cloth boards, lettered in gilt across the back "Life of | Robert Browning | William Sharp | Walter Scott."

This work was issued as one of the volumes of the "Great Writers" series; and the collation given above is that of the "large-page" edition.

"Great Writers" series; and the collation given above is that of the "large-paper" edition.

(24.)

Browning's | Message to his Time : | His Religion, Philosophy, and Science | By Edward Berdoe | Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; | Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians (Edinburgh); | Member of the British Medical Association; | etc., etc. | [Quotation from Emerson.] London: | Swan Sonnenschein & Co., | Paternoster Square. | 1890.

Collation:—Octavo, pp. iv and 222: consisting of Title-page, as above (with imprint in centre of reverse), pp. i-ii; Dedication (with contents in centre of reverse), pp. iii-iv; and Text, pp. 1-222.

Issued in dark-red bevelled cloth boards, gilt-lettered across back "Browning's | Message | to | His Time | Berdoe | Sonnenschein."

(25.) Life and Letters | of | Robert Browning | by | Mrs. Sutherland Orr | London | Smith, Elder, & Co., 15 Waterloo Place | 1891 | [All rights

Collation:—Large octavo, pp. xiii and 451: consisting of Half-title (with blank reverse), pp. i-i-i; Title-page, as above (with blank reverse), pp. iii-iv; Preface, pp. v-vi; Contents, pp. vii-xiii; Text, pp. 1-438; and Index. pp. 439-451.

Issued in dark-yellow cloth boards, gilt-lettered across the back "Life | and | Letters | of | Robert | Browning | Mrs. Sutherland Orr | Smith, Elder & Co."

(26.)Robert Browning | and the Drama | With Special Reference to the Point of View afforded by | Miss Alma Murray's | Performances of his Heroines. | A Note | by | Walter Fairfax |

London | Reeves and Turner 196 Strand | 1891. Collation:—Octavo, pp. 20: consisting of Titlepage, as above (with blank reverse), pp. 1-2; and Text, pp. 3-20. The imprint occurs at the foot of

Issued in light-grey wrapper, on the front page of which the title is reprinted, and on the reverse an advertisement of a forthcoming work of the

(27.)A Primer on Browning | By F. Mary Wilson | London | Macmillan and Co. | and New York | 1891 | All rights reserved.

New York | 1891 | All rights reserved.

Collation:—Small octavo, pp. viii and 248: consisting of Half-title (with publishers' monogram upon the reverse), pp. i-ii; Title-page, as above (with blank reverse), pp. ii-iv; Contents, pp. v-vii; pp. viii is blank; and Text, pp. 1-248. The imprint occurs at the foot of the last page.

Issued in bright-red coloured cloth boards, with trimmed edges, lettered in gilt across the back "A | Primer | on | Browning | F. Mary | Wilson | Macmillan & Co." Also lettered in black upon the front cover.

Browning's | Criticism of Life | By | William F. Revell | Author of 'Ethical Forecasts,' etc. | With a Frontispiece | [Publishers' device.] London | Swan Sonnenschein & Co. | New York: Macmillan & Co. | 1892.

Collation: -Postoctavo, pp. x and 116: consisting of Half-title (with advertisements of "The Dilettante Half-title (with advertisements of "The Dilettante Library" upon the reverse), pp. i-ii; Title-page, as above (with imprint in the centre of the reverse), pp. iii-iv; Dedication ("To my Wife"—with blank reverse), pp. v-vi; Preface, pp. vii-viii; Contents (with blank reverse), pp. ix-x; and Text, pp. 1-116. The imprint is repeated at the foot of the last page. Issued in dark-brown bevelled cloth boards, with trimmed edges, and lettered in gilt across the back "Browning's | Criticism | of Life | Revell | Sonnenschein." The frontispiece is a portrait of Robert Browning, taken after death,

Browning, taken after death.

Of | 'Fifine at the Fair' | 'Christmas Eve and Easter Day' | and | other of Mr. Browning's Poems | by | Jeanie Morison | William Black-wood and Sons | Edinburgh and London | MDCCCXCII.

MDCCXCII.

Collation:—Crown octavo, pp. viii and 99: consisting of Half-title (with blank reverse), pp. i-ii; Title-page (with blank reverse), pp. iii-iv; Dedication to Miss Browning (with blank reverse), pp. v-vi; Contents (with quotation from 'Easter Day' on reverse), pp. vii-viii; and Text, pp. 1-99. The imprint is at foot of last page.

Issued in dark-red cloth boards, with trimmed edges, and lettered in gilt across the back "Of |

Fifine | at the | Fair | Jeanie | Morison | Wm. Blackwood | & Sons."

The | Browning Cyclopædia | A Guide to the Study of the Works | of | Robert Browning, | With | Copious Explanatory Notes and Refer. ences | on all Difficult Passages. | By | Edward Berdoe, | Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh; Member of | the Royal College of Surgeons, etc., etc., Author of Browning's Message to his Time, 'Browning as a Scientific | Poet, etc., etc. | London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co. | New York: Macmillan & Co. | 1892.

Collation:—Post octavo, pp. xx and 572: consisting of Half-title (with advertisement on reverse), pp. i-i; Title-page, as above (with imprint at foot of reverse), pp. ii-i-iv; Dedication (with blank reverse), pp. vi-i-v; Preface, pp. vii-x; "Unsolved Difficulties," study-books, &c., pp. xi-xx; and

Dimentities, Study-Books, &c., pp. 1-3x; and Text, pp. 1-572. Issued in red cloth boards, gilt-lettered across back "The | Browning | Cyclopædia | Berdoe | Sonnenschein."

Sonnenschein."

(31.)

Browning Studies | being | Select Papers by Members | of the | Browning Society | Edited, with an Introduction | by | Edward Berdoe, M.R.C.S., &c. | Author of 'The Browning Cyclopedia,' 'Browning's Message to his Time, &c., &c. | London | George Allen, 156, Charing Cross Road | 1895 | [All rights reserved.]

Collation:—Octavo, pp. xiv and 331.
Issued in cloth boards, lettered in gilt. The entire contents of this volume were reprinted for the Browning Society's Papers.

An Introduction | to | Robert Browning. | A Criticism of the Purpose and | Method of his Earlier | Works. | By | Bancroft Cooke. | London: Simpkin, Marshall & Co. | Liverpool: Adam Holden, 48, Church Street. | Price one

Collation: - Demy octavo, pp. ii and 40: consisting of Half-title (with blank reverse), pp. i-ii; Titlepage, as above (with blank reverse), pp. 1-2; and Text, pp. 3-40.

Issued in light-grey wrapper, printed across from page "An Introduction | to | Robert Browning."
There is no date given.

Browning | and the Christian Faith | The Evidences of Christianity from | Browning's Point of View | By | Edward Berdoe | Member of the Royal Callege of S. Point of View | By | Edward Berdoe | Memoer of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; Licentiate of the | Royal College of Physicians (Edinburgh); | Author of | 'The Browning Cyclopædia,' 'Browning's Message to his Time,' | Etc. | [Quotation from 'A Death in the Desert.'] | London | George Allen, 156, Charing Cross Road | 1896 | [All rights reserved.]

Cross Road | 1896 | [All rights reserved.]

Collation:—Crown octavo, pp. xx and 233: consisting of Half-title (with blank reverse), pp. i-ii; Title-page, as above (with blank reverse), pp. iii-ly; Dedication (with blank reverse), pp. vi-ix; p. x is blank; Contents (with blank reverse), pp. xi-xii; Introduction, pp. xiii-xx; and Text, pp. 1-233. The imprint, "Richard Clay & Sons, Limited, | London & Bungay," is placed upon the centre of the reverse of the last page.

Issued in dark-green cloth boards, lettered in gilt across the back "Browning | and the | Christian Faith | Dr. Berdoe | George Allen."

Thomas J. Wiss.

THOMAS J. WISE.

THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF PROF. MASPERO'S

THE second volume of Prof: Maspero's great work 'Histoire Ancienne des Peuples de l'Orient Classique' has just appeared in an English trans-lation, issued under the auspices of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, simultaneously with the French original. The object of the present note is to call the attention of English readers to the manner in which Prof. Maspero's text has, in certain passages, been surreptitiously tampered with in the translation.

Prof. Maspero in his survey of ancient nations includes a sketch of the history of Israel. This history Prof. Maspero views throughout from

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the standpoint of modern criticism. previous smaller work on the ancient history of the peoples of the East he stated explicitly that he adopted the historical conclusions of Reuss he adopted the instorical conclusions of Reuss and Wellhausen (fourth edition, 1886, p. 301). In his present work he adopts them equally, with-out the smallest ambiguity, and frequently in his notes refers to the works of these and other critics with approval. Such an endorsement, on the part of a distinguished archeologist, of the conclusions of modern criticism could, of course, conclusions of modern criticism could, or course, not be admitted by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. Accordingly, without giving his readers the smallest hint of the fact, the translator, Mr. McClure, alters in his translator, the translator. lation the text of the passages in question, so as to make Prof. Maspero appear throughout as an orthodox traditionalist. The method principally adopted, when once its secret has been discovered, adopted, when once its secret has been discovered, is sufficiently simple. In the text, where Prof. Maspero wrote "Tradition related" (or some equivalent phrase), Mr. McClure substitutes "The narrative says." In the notes, views expressed by Prof. Maspero as his own are transformed into those held by "some critics," without any indication whatever that they are in reality Prof. Maspero's as well. Occasionally, of course, alterations of a different kind or omissions are also to be met with. The reader will judge best of the process which has been followed by a few illustrations (the italics are in all cases my own).

in all cases my own).

1. "The Biblical narrative describes at length their marches." &c. (in the wilderness)—P. 445.

"Enough can still be made out to give us a general idea of the march of the emigrants."—P. 445, n. 1.

"The Israelites did not act throughout with that unity of purpose and energy which we might at first sight have attributed to them."—P. 681.

"And we have some details "Samson's] history."—P. 7.03.
"Story of the Levite of Ephraim, in which the important historical event is the massacre of the pillaging clan by its neighbours."—P. 7.05, n. 4.
"It contained the two "Elle renfermatt deux"."

massacre of the piliaging clan by its neighbours."—P. 705, n. 4.
"It contained the two

"The facts given in Jos." La tradition recueillie xviii. 1 show that the date dans Jos. xviii. 1, en fusiant of its foundation there goes back," &c.—P. 703, n. 2.

"His (Samuel's) position as judge of all Israel seems de tout Israel date de l'époque to have developed at a later period."—P. 708, n. 1.

"It contained the two tables of the Mosaic law."—
P. 708.

"The facts given in Jos. will. 1 show that the date of its foundation there goes lack." & P. 701. n. 2.

"Narrative" or "sacred writings" is also substituted for tradition (often with the past tense), p. 679, p. 696, l. 4, p. 709, l. 1 ("une tradition moins flatteuse"), p. 710, l. 1, p. 710, note 2, and elsewhere.

In p. 65, note 2, and on p. 70, by the substitution of "later times" for l'époque royale, the fact is concealed that Prof. Maspero holds the narratives of Genesis in question to have been composed under the monarchy.

"For Wellhausen's "Sur l'âge probable de theory of the probable date cette tradition, cf. Well-of this episode [Gen. xxvii], bausen....."
 Wellhausen."—P. 66, n. 4.

"The episode of Othniel and Chushan-rishathaim..... repose, de l'aveu général, sur une tradition is by many critics rejected as spurious."—P. 685, n. 2.

"For Stade's view as to the dater development of Judah, de sur l'époque tardive à laquelle il se constitua définitivement sous constitua de l'appear de

"Budde.....endeavours to show that these events were attributed at a later date to Joshua."—P. 703, n. 2.

Joshua,"—P. 703, n. 2.
"Some critics think....."—
P. 712.
"1 Sam. xxiv. thought by
some writers to have been of nuch later date."—P. 717,
n. 3.

dive à laquelle il se constitua définitivement sous son apparence historique, cf. Stade......"

"Sur ces faits, qui ont été attribués plus tard à la con-quête de Josué, cf. Budde....."

Other instances in which opinions expressed by Prof. Maspero as his own have been transformed similarly into those of "some critics" formed similarly into those of "some crities" will be found on p. 684, p. 686, notes 3 and 4, p. 693, note 3, p. 696, note 4, p. 702, line 6, p. 704, note 2, p. 705, note 4, p. 706, note 4, p. 712, notes 3 and 4, p. 714, notes 5 and 7, p. 715, note 1, p. 720, note 4, and elsewhere. P. 714, note 5, and p. 718, note 3, "imagined" and "pretend" are terms of disparagement introduced gratuitusly by the translator in the troduced gratuitously by the translator: in the original the views expressed in these notes are those of the author himself.

3. Passages in which I'rof. Maspero's recognition of the value of critical studies has been suppressed :-

"On trouvera, dans l'un peared of late dealing with these books (Exodus to Deuteronomy) from a critical point of view."—P. 447, n. 3.

"On trouvera, dans l'un quelc nque des nombreux annuels publiés en Al'etteronomy] from a critical manuels publiés en Al'etteronomy. I'analyse de ces point of view."—P. 447, n. 3. qu'il renferme.

Here are two notes which have been omitted in the English translation :-

In the English translation:—

(On the critical study of the book of Joshua) "Je me borneral à prendre les résultats acquis par le trovail continu de plusieurs générations et à les exposer, tout en m'excusant de ne pas pouvoir, faute de place, rendre à chacun la part qui lui revient dans ce travail de sélection et de reconstitution historique."—P. 679, n. 3.

"Le refus qu'on lui prête dans la rédaction actuelle du Livre des Juges viii. 22, 23, trahit, comme le feront par la suite les déclarations de Samuel contre la royauté, l'influence du temps où les idées prophétiques prédominaient."—P. £92, n. 1.

A translation is a translation, and its sole raison d'être is that it represents faithfully the text of the author. The effect of the alterations and omissions which I have signalized is that in the account which the volume contains of the history and literature of Israel the entire perspective of the author is changed: the reader purchases a book which professes, on this as on other subjects, to give him the opinions and conclusions of Prof. Maspero himself, whereas in reality it gives him something altogether different.

It is surprising that the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge should have sanctioned this piece of literary bad faith, and that either Prof. Sayce, the editor, or Mr. McClure, the translator, should have lent his hand to it. If the Society undertook to present Prof. Mas-pero's work to the English public, it is clear that the only straightforward course for them to adopt was either to present it faithfully in every particular, or to prefix a note (which, however, I do not find) stating unambiguously that Prof. Maspero in the original work treated the Old Testament from a critical standpoint, and often expressed sympathy with critics and their work, but that, as they felt sure that their readers would be justly shocked by such views, they had authorized the translator to do his best to eliminate them.

### Literary Cossip.

Mr. Buxton Forman will shortly publish a work entitled 'The Books of William Morris: an Essay in Bibliography,' somewhat on the plan of his volume called 'The Shelley Library' - that is to say, setting forth in a connected narrative the public appearances of the author in a way calculated to give the student and collector such exact bibliographical knowledge of the whole of the printed works as the present age requires concerning not only great men like Morris, but many minor literati. It is intended to give several facsimiles and other illustrations, and to add information about manuscripts. Communications from the possessors of any of Morris's manuscripts would be gratefully received by Mr. Forman, who would be glad to hear, indeed, of any out-of-the-way items cognate to the subject of a work at once narrative and bibliographical. His address is 46, Marl-borough Hill, St. John's Wood.

MR. S. R. GARDINER lately discovered in the Vatican archives a despatch written by Rossetti early in 1642, when he was nuncio at Cologne, and describing Charles I.'s plan for the rescue of Strafford by the aid of troops from Ireland and Holland. This evidence, which is important as coming from one in the confidence of the Court, will be published in the January number of the English Historical Review.

In the same number Mr. James Gairdner will continue his discussion of 'New Lights on the Divorce of Henry VIII.' Mr. J. R. Tanner writes on 'The Administration of the Navy from the Restoration to the Revolution'; Mr. J. H. Clapham on 'A Royalist Spy during the Reign of Terror'; and Mr. R. Seymour Long on 'Andrew Jackson and the National Bank.'

THE Clarendon Press will publish shortly the Hebrew original of ten chapters of Ecclesiasticus (xxxix. 15 to xlix. 11) lately discovered in the East. It was generally supposed that St. Jerome was the last scholar who saw or possessed it, until recently a Hebrew treatise, written by Saadiah Gaon (about 920 A.D.), was found, in which the author quotes several sentences in Hebrew from Ecclesiasticus. Thus the book was still extant at that time in Bagdad, where Saadiah lived. No further trace of the Hebrew text was discovered until about June, 1896, when a MS. leaf brought to England by Mrs. Lewis, of Cambridge, was recognized by Mr. S. Schechter as a portion of the longlost original, and was published by him in the Expositor. Almost simultaneously nine leaves of the same MS., brought likewise from the East, were identified in the Bodleian Library. The Clarendon Press is now issuing a critical edition of all ten leaves, consisting of the Hebrew original, accompanied by an English translation and the Greek, Syriac, and Old Latin versions, followed by a glossary of new forms found in the Hebrew text, and of words used in new senses. A list is added of the proverbs of Jesus, son of Sirach, genuine and spurious, found in Talmudic and Rabbinic literature, arranged according to the order of the Greek version. The preface gives full literary particulars respecting the book. One main result of the new text is that it proves Sirach to have written classical Hebrew (with the exception of a few New-Hebrew words). Two facsimile pages, the first and last of the Oxford fragment, are appended, showing marginal notes of various readings, somewhat resembling the Massora to the Old Testament.

MR. ARTHUR DASENT, whose forthcoming book on Mayfair is now approaching completion, would be grateful for the loan of any unpublished letters, especially of the eighteenth century, referring to individual houses in Berkeley Square, Hill Street, Charles Street, Curzon Street, and the neighbourhood generally. Communications intended for Mr. Dasent may be addressed to Messrs. Macmillan.

THE Queen has just accepted the dedication of the little collection of hymns for use at the celebrations of the sixtieth year of

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her reign, which Messrs. Skeffington & Son will publish during this month. Among the writers are the Bishop of Ripon, the Rev. S. J. Stone, Mr. Chatterton Dix, Canon Twells, Canon Rawnsley, &c., while special tunes will be supplied by Sir John Stainer, Sir Walter Parratt, Dr. Bridge (of Westminster), Dr. G. Martin (of St. Paul's), and others.

THE authorship of Scottish poetry threatens to supply matter of controversy as exhaustless as the battle of Hastings. Another of Prof. Skeat's verdicts is to be attacked. The metrical 'Legends of the Saints,' originally attributed by the late Mr. Bradshaw to John Barbour, were subsequently edited as his by Dr. Horstmann. Contrary arguments of German birth were favoured by Prof. Skeat, on the strength of which the ascription was rejected and the legends reedited as anonymous by Dr. Metcalfe for the Scottish Text Society. Mr. George Neilson is reassailing the question in the Scottish Antiquary for January. He disputes the validity of the rhyme-canon of Dr. Buss, and adduces parallels of substance and diction between 'The Bruce' and the St. Ninian legend conclusive, in his opinion, that only one pen could have written both. As the Ninian legend has passages found verbatim also in another of the legends, it is in a sense the key of the collection, and the authorship of the whole will almost certainly depend on that of the part.

Messrs. Luzac & Co. write:-

"We were much surprised to see in last week's issue of the Atheneum our name mentioned as publishers of a work by Mr. H. W. Mengedott. No arrangement whatever was made by us as regards this or any other work by Mr. H. W. Mengedott."

An interesting relic of Pope and Gay has recently been unearthed by Mr. Buxton Forman in his peregrinations among the London bookshops. This is no other than the copy of Gay's 'Trivia' presented by the author to Pope, the fact being authenticated by a bold inscription in Pope's hand-writing: "Ex dono Authoris." It is one of the exceedingly few copies which were produced on large paper, and is in beautiful preservation. These large paper copies have more than a fancy interest; for in them the woodcut scroll ornaments at the headings of the three books of 'Trivia' were superseded in favour of three charming oblong copper-plates, the first a pretty contemporary view of London, the other two the Pegasus and lyre engravings which were used in the first complete or five-canto edition of 'The Rape of the Lock,' published in 1712, the year before Gay wrote his 'Trivia.' It was of course natural that, if Gay had a large-paper copy at all, he should present it to his colleague (with Arbuthnot) in the production of 'Three Hours after Marriage'; and the book is a most interesting find.

THE Cambridge Historical Tripos examination is henceforth to be divided into two parts, the latter including comparative and deductive politics, and a select subject in the history of thought, literature, or art. At Oxford the Christmas examination for Mathematical Moderations has been discontinued.

BISHOP PEARSON during the later years of his life compiled a commonplace book of

remarkable passages and striking thoughts which he met with in the course of reading. His widow has placed these in the hands of Mr. Elliot Stock, who will publish them very shortly in a volume, with a preface by the Bishop of Manchester.

As an indication of the continued progress of the Finnish language as a literary vehicle, we note that the number of periodicals written in Finnish and published in 1896 was 111, of which 100 appeared in Finland and 11 abroad. In Finland were also published 72 periodicals in Swedish, and 4 in both Finnish and Swedish.

FOLK-LORISTS may be interested to hear that the Society for "Bayerische Volkskunde und Mundart - Forschung," the foundation of which we announced some time ago, will shortly issue the first volume of its *Mitteilungen*.

THE Parliamentary Papers of the week include Reports on the Charities of Four Yorkshire Parishes; and a Statistical Abstract for the Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom, 1881 to 1895 (1s. 2d.).

#### SCIENCE

Problems of Biology. By George Sandeman, M.A. (Sonnenschein & Co.)

This essay has just missed being a valuable contribution to a very interesting discussion. It gives evidence of original thought and wide reading, but its style is such that the class of readers to whom it would have been really useful will never master its contents.

Shortly stated, Mr. Sandeman's object is to test the current theories of life and development from the point of view of philosophy. It was high time some one undertook the task, for the biologist who resents any intrusion of metaphysics into what he is pleased to consider the domain of fact, and looks upon the world as "made in compartments answering to university lectureships," is unfortunately no figment of Mr. Sandeman's imagination. It is precisely to him that 'Problems of Biology' might have been helpful, perhaps even inspiring, whereas we fear that it will be merely unintelligible, for Mr. Sandeman seems to have read German until he has lost the power of writing English.

His first argument is that

"the doctrine of the independence of science from philosophy, always over-emphasized, has, in the case of biology, no meaning whatever...... the problem of philosophy as regards organisms is the problem of biology."

This is rather an overstatement of the case, but it is pleasant to find the case stated at all. Having thus defined his position, Mr. Sandeman proceeds to review in detail the chief biological hypotheses. In each case the questions asked are the same: Firstly, in what, according to the hypothesis under consideration, does the unity of the organism—"the very category of biology," as Mr. Sandeman calls it—consist? And secondly, can an unassailable theory of the unity—of identity in difference—be built up upon the hypothesis? We agree with him that satisfactory answers to these questions are not given by any

hypothesis according to which the parts of the organism, or the organism and its environment, are looked upon as unrelated particulars, acting independently of one another. That they postulate this "independence of differences" is the accusation which he brings against the systems of Herbert Spencer, Weismann, Naegeli, and Lamarck. Criticism from a new point of view is always interesting, and we have seldom read a closer piece of reasoning than Mr. Sandeman's account of these hypotheses as interpreted by the light of Hegel and Hartmann; only it requires the patience of a conscientious reviewer to follow him through the perplexing phraseology in which he clothes his argument.

The chapter on "Natural Selection" is quite the weakest part of the book. Here, for instance, is a surprising statement:—

"A species is at no time, in fact, more numerous than can be supported by its means of subsistence, and it seems probable that it never comes near to such a limit."

We suppose Mr. Sandeman means the individuals of a species, in which case the first part of the sentence is a logical quibble, untrue "in fact"; and we know of no reason why the second part "seems probable," unless it is that Dr. Hutchison Stirling finds no reference to the struggle for existence in 'The Voyage of the Beagle,' a reason which is scarcely convincing. And this section is worse than weak, it is in bad taste. Only a very young man could be pardoned for writing as follows:—

"And the achievement of the method [natural selection] is not to explain anything which is, but it is merely to afford us a transition from the really unintelligible of accidental production, to the formally intelligible of conditioned existence. It enables one to follow, hypothetically, the production of the parts of the system of the body, or of the organism and environment, as unconditioned by the other parts of those systems. Then, at a certain point which cannot be shown as phenomenal, these parts come into collision with their conditions, and those only which fit the latter (that is, all those which exist) come to be selected. Thus the Darwinian thunderclap follows upon its proper blaze of abstraction. And all that it succeeds in doing is to offer to us an empty formula of explanation which enables us to explain the parts as essentially unrelated to one another. In this respect, and in harmony with the first postulate, it is an alogical principle, and is necessarily, as in fact, without interest to research."

The average biologist is as little given to hero-worship as any man, but the above will make him rail against "ignorant philosophers," so that, on yet another ground than that of style, the barrier between him and Mr. Sandeman seems impassable. There are, however, a good many psychologists who understand the German of the philosophers, though they accept unquestioningly the most mechanical theories of life from their teachers of physiology. To them we recommend Mr. Sandeman's essay; and if it is not called for in too great a hurry, we expect to see his new edition largely "revised and amended."

#### BOCIETIES

GEOLOGICAL.—Dec. 16.—Dr. H. Hicks, President, in the chair.—Messrs. W. A. Brend, R. H. Kitson, J. C. E. Lawson, H. N. Perrin and J. Roberts were elected Fellows.—The following communications

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were read: 'On the Subdivisions of the Carboniferous Series in Great Britain, and the True Position of the Beds mapped as the Yoredale Series,' by Dr. W. Hind, and 'Note on Volcanic Bombs in the Schalsteins of Nassau,' by Prof. E. Kayser, communicated by the Secretary.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Dec. 22.—Mr. J. W. Barry, President, in the chair.—The paper read was 'On Steel Skeleton Construction in Chicago,' by Mr. E. C. Shankland.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WERK

Mox. London Institution, 4.—'Rays of Light, New and Old,' Prof.

3. A. Fleming.

Victoria Institute, 4].—'The Botany of Egypt.' Dr. Walker.

Geographical, 8].—'An Expedition to the Barotse Country,'

Capp. A. Fleming.

TVER. Dr. Thompson.

Web. Society of Arts. 7.—'The Growth and Demolition of Mountains,'
Mr. C. T. Dent.

Geological, 8.—'Structure of the Skull in a Pilosaur,' Mr. C. W.

Andrews; 'On the Frembroke Earthquakes of August, 1892,

and November, 1894, Mr. of R. R. Tarr.

Thurs. Royal Institution, 3.—'Light, Visible and Invisible,' Prof.

8at. Boyal Institution, 3.—'Light, Visible and Invisible,' Prof.

8ar. Boyal Institution, 3.—'Light, Visible and Invisible,' Prof.

8 P. Thompson.

#### Science Gossip.

We are exceedingly sorry to hear of the decease, at Berlin, of Prof. E. du Bois-Reymond, after a brief illness. He was born in 1818 at Berlin, and began in 1837 studying theology in Berlin, and began in 1837 studying theology in the University there. After a year of this he migrated to Bonn and devoted his time to geology, but in 1839 the influence of Johannes Müller drew him back to his native city. As early as 1841 he began his celebrated researches into the electricity of nerve and muscle. His striking investigations in this direction attracted the attention of Humboldt, owing to whose encouragement he was able to publish his cele-brated 'Untersuchungen über die thierische Elektricität,' and who welcomed him on his election to the Prussian Academy of Sciences in 1850. In 1858 he succeeded Johannes Müller 1850. In 1858 he succeeded Johannes Müller in his chair. In 1868 he became Permanent Secretary of the Academy. His writings on physiology were, it is hardly necessary to say, numerous and important, and the physiologists of the present day owe him a deep debt of gratitude. His lectures 'Ueber die Grenzen des Naturerkennens,' 'Sieben Welträtsel,' and 'Goethe und kein Ende,' were known to all educated men in his own country and to many cutside.

The planet Mercury will be at greatest eastern elongation from the sun on the evening of the 6th inst., and will, therefore, be visible after sunset during the first half of the month in the constellation Capricornus. Venus is increasing in brilliancy as an evening star, moving in an easterly direction through Aquarius into Pisces; she will be in conjunction with the crescent moon on the 6th. Mars is decreasing in brightness; he is almost stationary in the heavens, situated in the north-eastern part of Taurus, and will be in close conjunction with the moon not long before setting on the morning of the 15th. Jupiter rises now about 10 o'clock in the evening, in the constellation Leo. Saturn is in the western part of Scorpio, and does not rise until past 4 o'clock in the morning.

THE elements of Mr. Perrine's new comet (g. 1896) to which reference was made in our "Notes" last week were calculated by Messrs. Hussey and Perrine from early observations. Dr. F. Ristenpart, of Heidelberg, has made another determination of the orbit, with the result that the perihelion passage took place on the 1st ult. The brightness continues to decrease; and the comet is now situated in the constellation Eridanus, its approximate place for to-night (January 2nd) being, according to Dr. Ristenpart's ephemeris, R.A. 3h 33m, N.P.D. 90° 57′, and for next Wednesday (the 6th) R.A. 3 53m, N.P.D. 91° 19′.

#### FINE ARTS

The Communion Plate of the Parish Churches in the County of London. By Edwin Freshfield, Jun. (Privately printed.)

In a former number we had the pleasure of noticing Mr. Freshfield's excellent work on 'The Communion Plate of the Churches in the City of London.' He has now issued a companion volume on 'The Communion Plate of the Parish Churches in the County of London,' and it is pleasant to find it is to be followed by a monograph on 'The Church Plate of the County of Middlesex. For some occult reason Mr. Freshfield has again chosen to print his work "privately."

The bulk of the present as of the former volume is occupied by a descriptive inventory of the plate, but this is prefaced by an important introduction, divided into two sections. The first begins by explaining what churches are dealt with in the work and what are omitted. Out of upwards of three hundred contained within the eighteen rural deaneries in the county of London outside the City, forty-two only are parish churches, the rest being churches of eccle-siastical parishes and districts of modern origin, and possessing, it is presumed, no plate of any archæological value. All these accordingly are omitted from the work "excepting those built under the Union of Benefices Act," &c.

For historical purposes Mr. Freshfield divides the parish churches into two classes: (1) those of ancient parishes which have existed from time immemorial, and (2) those of certain statutory parishes separated from the ancient parishes by legislation during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Of these a table is appended, mentioning the parish and the date of its creation, the dedication and date of the church, and the name of its architect when known. Some interesting details are also supplied concerning the cost of the later churches. But the greater part of the section is taken up by an account of the working of the Union of Benefices Act, an excuse for which is found in the scattering of plate brought about by the destruction of the City churches. On this subject Mr. Freshfield entered at length in his former volume, and his readers will cordially agree with him that "every obstacle should be put in the way of anything like wholesale demolition."

From the second section of the introduction, which treats of the general characteristics of the plate, we learn that in the county of London not a single mediæval piece of plate has survived. In the City, on the contrary, five specimens have escaped destruction. In the county, too, nearly all the Elizabethan and Jacobean plate has disappeared, and the bulk of the vessels are post - Restoration, eighteenth century, or modern. The last-named, as Mr. Freshfield points out, are usually copied from one or two typical pieces of pre-Reformation plate still preserved in this country, "and in nine cases out of ten, where the artist has tried to improve on the old model, with design or detail of his own invention, the result is a failure." Almost all the plate in the county of London is the work of London goldsmiths, the exceptions being some three or four pieces of provincial make and about half a dozen foreign pieces. Among these last are cups at Bromley and Fulham, and a little goblet at St. Mary-le-Strand.

Among the materials used are a number of jugs, flagons, or cruets made of glass, no doubt because they are cheap, and anything is good enough for a church according to some people; but the use of glass for chalices, as at St. James's, Clerkenwell, is contrary to all ancient custom and should be avoided.

Among the flagons there seems to be much diversity of shape. The prevalent pattern is the tankard, both of the tall type and the shorter, with flat lids, but in later examples the lid is domed. Most of the examples are quite plain, but an elaborate set of three round-bellied flagons is in use at St. James's, Piccadilly, and a handsome tall tankard not unlike the well-known Norwich and Bristol examples is preserved at Kensington.

Of cups only one of the Edwardian type exists (at St. Margaret's, Westminster), and of the Elizabethan period but four have survived. Eleven Stuart examples, six made during the Commonwealth, and thirteen later are all there are of the seventeenth century. There are in addition to the cups of the usual type several others that are of peculiar form or of secular origin. At Bromley both the vessels that serve as chalices are secular and foreign, one being a tall Nuremberg cup, the other a small Augsburg hanap. Hampstead is fortunate in the possession of a very fine steepled hanap, made in 1629, and presented to the church in 1747, and Kensington has a cup of the same type, but without a cover; it is also earlier, with the hall-marks for 1599. At Fulham is a fine steepled cup with characteristic bulbed bowl and cover, of Nuremberg make, given in 1689; and the same church has also a very pretty pair of English cups, made in 1615, with steepled

The paten-covers with which many cups are provided, and patens proper, call for no general remark. They conform to the usual types of either a flat circular plate, or the same mounted on a short foot or stem. Only one example is earlier than 1624. A pretty lobed dish of Lübeck make of the sixteenth century serves as a paten at St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, and two Hamburg basins with repoussé work on the rims are in use at St. Mary-le-Strand. A paten almost of mediæval type with peculiar raised ornament, and the cup to which it belongs, also with like ornament, were given to the latter church in 1712.

The almsdishes, as Mr. Freshfield points out, are in general extremely poor. The large and handsome example at St. James's, Piccadilly, made in 1683, has the Last Supper in high relief in the centre, and a repoussé border with fruit, &c. St. Margaret's, Westminster, possesses a similar example, though not so good and a few years later in date. Both measure nearly two feet in diameter.

As in most collections of plate, that in the churches of the county of London includes many articles of a miscellaneous character, such as a rose-water ewer, two baptismal bowls, snuffboxes, chairmen's hammers, and the like. The most remark-able of all is the famous tobacco - box belonging to the parish of St. Margaret,

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Westminster. The original box is a small one of horn, engraved with the arms of the city of Westminster and a bust of the Duke of Cumberland within a series of trophies, from a design by Hogarth. It was given to the parish in 1713, but has since been enclosed in six successive outer cases, the surfaces of which are covered with names of various persons and with engravings of events of local or national importance.

The beadles' staves in the county of London are considered by Mr. Freshfield to be "quite as good if not better than those in the City" (sic). They are over seventy in number, and may be divided into (1) those with pear-shaped knobs, (2) those surmounted by statuettes, models, or other devices, and (3) short maces or wands. By far the larger number belong to the second class, many excellent examples of which are figured in the work. Although, on the whole, the church plate of the county cannot be compared with that in the City as regards the antiquity of individual pieces or in general artistic interest, there are, as we have seen, many articles of unusual excellence.

Mr. Freshfield's inventories, like those in his former volume, appear to be carefully and thoroughly done. They include the measurements, weights, hall-marks (where any), and short descriptions of each piece, and are not overburdened with unnecessary notes on the genealogy of the donors. A useful classified table of every piece of plate (each class arranged in chronological order, with diagrams of the makers' marks), and a list of donors of plate, conclude the volume. No index of the many persons and places mentioned in it is vouchsafed, but on the appearance of the volume on the church plate of Middlesex we are promised a general index to the three volumes.

The twenty-four plates that form the only illustrations to this volume are collotype reproductions of large photographs taken for the purpose. Several of them — such as the picture of the great almsdish at St. James's, Piccadilly, and that of the curious dish at St. George's-in-the-East, and the groups of plate at Stepney, Kensington (St. Mary Abbots), and St. Maryle-Strand-leave nothing to be desired. The eleven plates devoted to the beadles' staves are also excellent. We should, however, like to know why these eleven plates alone are numbered, while the other thirteen plates, which alternate with them, are not numbered at all. The finding of the plates is on this account no easy matter, and the difficulty is increased by the printer's stupid habit of not numbering the pages that begin with a new parish. Thus out of the first twenty, only 9, 12, 14, and 17 are paged, and of the second twenty, only 21, 23, 31, 35, 37, and 39. Among the former six plates are distributed, and another six among the latter; but as the index of illustrations refers the reader in the case of each of these twelve plates to unnumbered pages, the finding of them is rather a trial to one's patience and temper. Perhaps Mr. Freshfield will see that this defect does not occur in his third volume.

The work is admirably printed and illustrated throughout, and bound in unglazed buckram; but we should have liked a label or lettered title on the back.

The Art Journal, 1896 (Virtue & Co.), opens with a clear and firm, but rather too light version of Mr. Stanhope Forbes's capital picture 'Forging the Anchor.' In the first article that accomplished writer Mr. Claud Phillips describes the collection of pictures formed by Mr. G. McCulloch, and rightly deplores the breaking up of certain historic gatherings of works of art which were intact when Dr. Waagen took his very imperfect and too often perfunctory census of the art treasures of Great Britain. But Mr. Phillips rather overestimates the value of the German critic's labours, and he somewhat exaggerates our loss of pictorial wealth. No doubt, however, we have parted with a number of fine things, is probable that recent social changes, especially the gradual impoverishment of the "once landed class," whose forefathers in the last century had knowledge, taste, and wealth enough to collect works of art, will entail still greater losses. If it is a special function and duty of a long-established contemporary to extol with the pencil as well as the pen a certain number of painters whose reputa-tions have yet to be made, and others who are not likely to establish a reputation at all, then we are bound to say that the Art Journal of to-day is at once conscientious and enterprising in acting up to its honourable principles, so that we read in its pages of several of the illustrious obscure. A few papers enrich the present volume whose writers aim at better things and endeavour to direct popular taste to design of a high stamp. Much judgment and tact are shown in the engravings from some of the choicest contributions to current exhibitions, and the remarks upon them. It is pleasant, too, to read what Mr. George Leslie and Mr. F. Eaton have to tell us about 'The Royal Academy in the Present Century,' and there are several capital illustrations of sculpture, ancient and modern, British as well as foreign. A great proportion of the larger cuts and plates are quite up to the standard of the Art Journal. The articles are, as a rule, well written, thoughtful, and competent; their characteristic defect is, as we have before said, their brevity, a defect which seldom fails to damp the enthusiasm of the writers.

The Magazine of Art, 1896. (Cassell & Co.) There is great improvement in the very numerous page cuts and plates which add much to the attractions of this portly and handsomely printed volume. Among the best of the plates are the frontispiece after M. Aubert's charming 'Country Cousins, so called; Mr. M. Raeburn's etching of 'Green-wich Pensioners,' after Millais; and the photowich Pensioners, after Miliais; and the photograph of W. Hunt's famous drawing in Mr. Humphry Roberts's collection entitled 'Preparing for the Soirée.' A special feature of the volume is the series of cuts after pictures and drawings by Lord Leighton and Sir John Millais, all of them characteristic and excellent, and employed to illustrate an elaborate and sympathetic set of essays by Mr. Spielmann. Similar transcripts accompany the notices of Sir E. Burne - Jones's studies. Among the most satisfactory portions of the letterpress are Mr. J. Guille Millais's papers on 'Sport in Art,' a well treated and ably illustrated theme which deserves developing on a much larger scale than the Magazine could admit of; Mr. W. Crane's dis-Magazine could admit of; Mr. W. Crane's discourses on 'The Influence of Architectural Style upon Design,' a valuable notice of an interesting matter; Mr. J. Ward's 'Reminiscences of Leighton'; and Mr. J. S. Gardner's 'Ironwork at South Kensington.' One or two writers betray curious ignorance of the subjects they have written upon; the most conspicuous of these instances is afforded by the anonymous 'Was Hogarth a Plagiarist?' Another Another instance is Mr. Burtchaell's note on 'The

Portrait of Queen Elizabeth lately discovered at Siena, p. 419, the author of which did not know of another version—doubtless the original of the picture—which has long been in a renowned English gallery. A third and most flagrant instance is Mr. J. Pennell's 'An Experiment.

The Pageant, 1897 (Henry & Co.), is in som respects a spasmodic magazine, replete with tales of hysterical terrors and curious legends curiously told and wondrously involved. The "Foreword," a laudatory note on the contributors, is hardly justified by the contents of the book, certainly not by its illustrations, the majority of which are very poor—whatever their originals may be. The best of the essays are Mr. E. Gosse's 'Jules Barbey d'Aurevilly,' which, though a little cynical, is a good piece o writing, showing humour and research, and Mr. A. E. Abbott's 'God gave my Donkey Wings' 'Virago,' by Mr. W. D. Scull, is a well-composed story. Mr. Austin Dobson's verses 'Post-script to "Retaliation" deserve, if anything could, a place by Goldsmith's genial satire. The best of the cuts, all things considered, is that which reproduces Rossetti's very fine pen drawing of 'Hamlet and Ophelia.' That an original so crude and dull as Mr. C. H. Shannon's rough sketch of a female model resuming her garment, which is rather boldly called Amazon,' should be copied at all is as surprising as the reproduction of 'Le Premier Bal,' by Mr. C. Conder, of which it is difficult to make anything. On the other hand, Mr. C. Ricketts's 'Autumn Muse' is a very pretty design indeed suggesting Rossetti.

Vanity Fair Album. Vol. XXVIII. ('Vanity Fair 'Office.)-No personage in Vanity Fair ha Fair' Office.)—No personage in Vanity Fair as been more interesting, or, we may say, better drawn, than Li Hung Chang, whose fair and figure by "Guth" are really good and vigorous, and full of character and strength. Among the persons of whom we cannot speak from personal knowledge are several whom "Jehu Junior" describes as good-looking, handsome, and so forth. One would not gather this from their portraits, but it not gather this from their portraits, but it would be invidious to name in this connexion either the men or their likenesses. Fortunately perhaps, vol. xxviii. contains no pictures, true or false, of ladies; but are we to under stand that no dames or damsels have made themselves notorious or important during 1896! It is impossible Mr. Alfred Austin can be the Poet Laureate and resemble the feeble personage who figures as No. 642; Mr. Hall Caine certainly does not look the fury he is represented to be in No. 651; Lord Yarborough's friends repudiate No. 661 s a likeness of that peer; but No. 662 may pass muster as a crude likeness of Mr. H. L. B. McCalmont. The young Marquis of Bath need not complain very bitterly about No. 668; no can Viscount Curzon reasonably object, for his portrait is faithful and sympathetic, on of "Spy's" best works; we may say the same of the Duke of Bedford, but the likeness of Mr. W. Woodall (679) is dull; that of Mr. G. Meredith (659) is a caricature in the tiresome old style of Vanity Fair. One of the tiresome old style of Vanity Fair. One of the best likenesses is No. 641, of the late Mr. Du Maurier, by "Spy," who maintains his reputation in masculine likenesses such as No. 660, 'Sir W. MacCormac'; but he is not likely to increase it by performances like 'Sam Loates' (662) and 'Mr. C. C. Clarke' (664).

The Architectural Review, Vol. I. No. 1 Architectural Review' Office), is a new candidate for the honours of circulation, and, so far as we can see, appears fully to deserve them. The part before us, being that for November, contains a well-studied and sympathetic essay by Mr. J. E. Newberry on 'The Work of J. L. Pearson, R.A., with special reference to True Cathedral, illustrated by a plan and numerous photographic views of the building within and

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without. A series of papers on the City halls of London, by Mr. H. D. Lowry, is accompanied by clever, though flimsy illustrations by Mr. J. Pennell; and a competent account of the church Pennell; and a competent account of the church of St. Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield, and its restoration by Mr. A. Webb, is supplied by Mr. C. E. Mallow. A notice of certain works in metal by Mr. N. and Mrs. E. Dawson is lightened by cuts after a number of excellent designs by the former.

#### PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL.

SIR WOLLASTON FRANKS, President of the Society of Antiquaries, has asked the Dean and Chapter of Peterborough to allow the pro-fessional advisers of the Society to make some further examination of the west front of the church, and has received a point-blank refusal.

On Tuesday the Chapter met, and it was

resolved:—

"The Dean and Chapter regret that they are unable to accede to the request made by the President of the Society of Antiquaries for permission to make a further examination of the west front, with a view to the preparation of a specification for the repair of the north gable. On two different occasions during the present year they have given facilities to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings to make full examinations of the west front, and they gave the deputation of the Society of Antiquaries access to every part of it on December 4th. But they consider that to grant the present request would have a significance which did not attach to any of the former occasions."

This too, has a significance. It signifies that

This, too, has a significance. It signifies that the Dean and Chapter have at last learnt that the Society of Antiquaries are very much in earnest, are well advised, and know quite well what they are about. It signifies further that the Dean and Chapter and the architects behind them, having made up their minds to pull down, are afraid of the alternative plan of repair advocated by the Society, and hope by locking the door to prevent the preparation of the Society's specification. There is a charming simplicity about this which recalls the Dean and Chapter's first act in the discussion, when they proposed to consider the objections to pulling down after two months, and to pull down meanwhile. But if our information is correct, as we believe it is, this has been thought of too late, for the specification is nearly ready, and the further examination of the building was only sought for the verification of a few points of secondary importance.

The resolution goes on :-

The resolution goes on:

"The Dean and Chapter were as desirous as the Society of Antiquaries can be that the old work should if possible, be left undisturbed, and it was with this end in view that they obtained a second professional opinion. They are now assured, not only by the distinguished architects whom they have consulted, but also by practical workers of the widest experience in dealing with ancient buildings, that the safety of the fabric is involved, and that the method of repair suggested by the Society is neither suitable nor possible in this case. They feel, therefore, that they would only be misleading the Society if they consented to an examination preparatory to a course of action which they have definitely decided not to adopt."

This has ever been the burden of their song,

This has ever been the burden of their song, but the desire to leave undisturbed which is accompanied by an obstinate determination to pull down, and a refusal even to listen to those who offer at their own cost to demonstrate the possibility of repair without pulling down, is of a sort which requires some education for its proper appreciation. And the reference of the matter to Mr. Pearson and Sir Arthur Blomfield is, as we pointed out last week, no real reference

The thanks of every Englishman are due to the Society of Antiquaries for the stand they the Society of Antiquaries for the stand they have made in this matter, and for their refusal to accept as final any "ultimatum" of the Dean and Chapter so long as anything remains to be saved. They are fighting the cause of every old church in the land. Some nonsense has been written by ignorant people, as there

always is when any subject is discussed in the newspapers, but the proportion of it is less than newspapers, but the proportion of it is less than usual, and the controversy has opened the eyes of thousands to the mischief which is being done under the name of "restoration." If every stone of Peterborough Cathedral be made as new as the front of St. Alban's, the fight will not have been fought in vain. But we are not without hope even yet that the Dean and Chapter was received the holes recitive and more Chapter may reconsider their position and may pause before entering upon a work the cost of which they have not now the funds to meet, and the public are not in the humour to find for them. Again, too, there are beginning to be heard ominous mutterings about the state of things which leaves a priceless national monument in the uncontrolled power of five clergymen who may be quite unable to understand its value and importance. And any flagrant abuse of that power is certain to be brought under notice of Parliament, perhaps with results which others besides the Dean and Chapter of Peterborough may deplore.

#### THE RAEBURN BYRON.

Athenæum Club I REALLY cannot allow Mr. Ichenhäuser to shelter himself in a cloud of pointless witticisms. Fortunately the matter at issue is extremely simple. On or about October 10th that renowned art collector informed a journalist—with a view to world-wide trumpeting—that he possessed a portrait of Byron at the age of seventeen, painted by the great Sir Henry Raeburn. Now facts are stubborn things, and cannot be disposed of as easily as so-called "Byron relics." In my letter to the Athenaum (November 21st, 1896) I pointed out the inherent improbability of any such portrait having been painted by Raeburn, without, of course, presuming to criticize the merits of the painting itself, which had been removed to America for sale purposes. It may be a genuine Raeburn for all I know or care, but it most certainly is not a portrait of Byron at the age of renowned art collector informed a journalisttainly is not a portrait of Byron at the age of seventeen nor at any other age. If Mr. Ichen-häuser has himself been deceived, I am very sorry for him, although it is difficult to imagine a gentleman of his attainments-an art collector of such eminence—being bamboozled by a mere frame with "endearing inscriptions."

Truth told, my protest was kindly meant. It was an attempt to serve the public and Mr. Ichenhäuser. There are shoals of so-called Byron portraits in the market at the present time. They do not all claim to be originals some are modest enough to pose as copies—but they, one and all, claim to be veritable like-nesses of the poet at one period or another of his life. Now, in point of fact, there are very few genuine portraits of Byron extant, and few genuine portraits of Byron extant, and those portraits are well and widely known. Mr. John Murray, Lord Lovelace, Lord Leigh, Mr. Webb of Newstead, the Lady Dorchester, the Lady Burdett-Coutts, Mr. Alfred Morrison, Mr. Horace Kent, and the heirs of the Hon. Mrs. Leigh are, I believe, the sole possessors of portraits taken from the life in the life oils and in water colours. If any other por-traits exist, their habitation should be made known. Supposing, for the sake of argument, that we admit the genuineness of Mr. Ichen-häuser's Raeburn Byron, I marvel that it should have been taken to America. There are many persons in England who would have given a great deal of money for that conjunction of immortal names. But a pedigree would have of immortal names. But a pedigree would have to be produced, and many little statements sifted before the sale. Portraits of celebrated men, by painters of Raeburn's eminence, do not emerge from an obscurity of ninety years without causing something like a "sensation." For the sake of Mr. Ichenhäuser's professional reputation as a connoisseur it would be well for him the big precise Revent best to Freshold. to bring his precious Byron back to England, where (if genuine) it will abide for ever.

RICHARD EDGCUMBE.

THE NEW GALLERY .- WINTER EXHIBITION. MR. WATTS'S PICTURES.

More than one hundred and fifty examples of Mr. Watts's art, sculptures as well as paintings, are to be seen in the New Gallery; nevertheless, the collection does not begin with the beginning of his career, although the earliest work on the walls dates from 1834, and it was not till 1837 that he sent his first contribunot till 1837 that he sent his first contribu-tions to the Royal Academy, which were hung by that body when it held its first exhibition in Trafalgar Square. They consisted of two por-traits of young ladies and 'The Wounded Heron,' No. 3 in this gallery. The earliest finished picture before us is No. 7, a small half-length figure of Mr. James Weale; it was painted somewhere about 1835, and is extremely interest-ing because, despite a certain timidity and heaviness of handling, it displays uncommon insight into the character of the sitter, firmness in the modelling, and distinct promise that ness in the modelling, and distinct promise that the artist, who was not more than eighteen years old at the time, would become a good colourist of the school of Titian. No. 2, an unfinished, but, to our taste, a far better instance, is a very expressive and beautiful portrait of the artist himself "at the age of eighteen," the Catalogue says, while adding that it dates from 1834. The discrepancies of the dates are not so important as the differences of the works, which seem to indicate that No. 7 is an older example than No. 2, for the style of the latter is broader and less timid. style of the latter is broader and less timid, style of the latter is broader and less timid, and is certainly symptomatic of a freer and more confident mood. The earliest exhibited painting before us is *The Wounded Heron* (3), a group of birds, which in its firmness and spirited touch is not unworthy of a long-practised hand. From the time it was at the Academy the arriver hear long cheant from the artist has never been long absent from the public eye, having exhibited, all told, more than 270 pictures in London alone. The present, too, is the third large collection of his works that has been formed in the metropolis, and there was also a numerous one some years sgo made in Liverpool. It is clear, there-fore, that not only does our painter not fear the test involved in submitting to the public a large number of one man's works, but that the public appreciates such an exhibition of the works of one who, despite the great distinction he enjoys as a portraitist, has always declared that he "paints ideas, not objects." The fact is, however, that, although his portraits yield to none in veracity and in modesty of style and execution, they embody ideas. It is not inconsistent with this that a certain deficiency in what may be called fibre should rarely be quite absent from even the best of Mr. Watts's likenesses of men; when women are in question no lack of senti-ment, beauty, or grace is felt. None of the old masters, in fact, has surpassed him in depicting ladies.

But is this collection complete, and therefore thoroughly representative? It is not to be forgotten that, although few men have excelled Mr. Watts as a draughtsman, none of his numerous drawings appears in it. It comprises what is relatively but a small part of his output, either in portraits or in those painted ideas which he takes it to be his duty to produce, although, we are sorry to say, the public does not agree with him in so thinking. His sculptures, which include equestrian statues of the heroic size and in a most heroic mood, are represented by only one bust. Even among the portraits we miss the likenesses of many famous men posterity will be grateful for, among them being the best portraits ever painted of Browning, of Henry Taylor, of Guizot, of Mill, Lord Shaftesbury, Lord Dufferin, Lord Lytton, and Lord Sherbrooke, of Mr. Lecky, of Mr. Calderon, and others still living, and, among women, of the late Marchioness of Waterford and the living Mrs. Langtry. sculptures, which include equestrian statues of

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We may pass on to notice the other pic-tures which on technical or personal grounds deserve attention. To this treatment of the subject, the arrangement of the works, which is, on the whole, more or less chronological, lends itself fairly well. No work in the South Room is so interesting on its own account as the before-mentioned No. 2, which is described as a likeness of the artist, for it is treated with rare breadth, and a silveriness not common in his later days. Its softness and the clearness of the shadow through which the refined and thoughtful features are seen, are quite charming, and we notice a strong likeness to Keats when a few years older. A sincere enthusiasm pervades the expression, and adds greatly to the attractions of the picture. Of 'The Wounded Heron's' history we have already spoken. Technically it proves that the painter's hand had in the three years that had elapsed between its execution and that of this por-trait acquired additional firmness and precision. The Saxon Sentinels (4), two figures, larger than life, may technically be said to herald the development of a stately sort of conventional art, distinctly academical, and akin rather to the Bolognese School than the com-bination of Venetian and Veronese art on which the repute of the artist now rests. The colour of this work glows, and its style is grandiose, but it is incapable of moving us.

The draughtsmanship shows that when Mr. Watts painted the very striking, but unfinished portrait of Lady Lilford (8) he had not studied the Elgin Marbles in vain; and in its painting and the massiveness of its modelling, always a great point with Mr. Watts, there is not a little which reminds us of Reynolds's manipulation. The lady's head and the fine moulding of her features must have been instructive to an artist who was bent on developing his power to deal with style.

In design and coloration the whole-length, life-size portrait of Mrs Nassau Senior (11) is, comparatively speaking, one of Mr. Watts's weakest works. It will be remembered that this lady was Millais's model for the fair matron, in the famous picture of 'The Rescue,' who kneels on the staircase and takes her two half-clad children from the fireman who had saved them. The splendour of her golden tresses attracted both artists. 'The Rescue' and this portrait were executed at about the same time, i. e., in 1855; but Millais improved the lady's features, which Mr. Watts did not. She died but a few years since. Lady Holland (12) was painted in Italy, while the artist was being warmly befriended by that eminent leader of society. It not only suggests the effect of the brilliant sunlight of the Riviera, but is the Lady Holland of 1843 to the life. In fact, she thought so much of her protégé's work that, years after, she bequeathed it to the Prince of Wales. The three-quarters-length, life-size J. Joachim (14), playing a violin, is one of Mr. Watts's most masculine portraits, dark and somewhat "sunken," as artists say (a circumstance most easily remedied), but, like the better-known contemporaneous portrait of Panizzi, in excellent condition.

No. 15 is one of the best, if not the very best of the portraits of Tennyson. It was executed in 1859, and is a masterpiece of flesh painting as well as a perfect likeness. Una and the Red Cross Knight (16) is one of the happiest of Mr. Watts's romantic pictures. But charming as its grace, movement, and bright colouring are, they rather diminish its virility and spontaneity; in these respects it resembles The Childhood of Jupiter (60), When Poverty comes in at the Window (70), Britomart and her Nurse (98), and one or two more of his illustrative and anedotic pictures—not of the allegories, which belong to quite a different category. Miss May Prinsep's portrait (21) is pearl-like in colour and delightful in its sweetness and purity; while, painted thirty years ago, the highly finished and thoroughly natural likeness of the present Earl of Carlisle (33), then Mr. George Howard, is an exceptionally good example of a manner of painting Mr. Watts seldom adopts. It has not, we think, been exhibited before.

#### NOTES FROM ATHENS.

Among the archæological excavations of the last month those at Corinth and the islands of Thera and Melos deserve especial notice. Of a city like Corinth, well known for its riches and brilliancy, which only received a temporary check by its destruction at the hands of Mummius, and was restored by Julius Cresar to new life and something of its ancient glory as Colonia Laus Julia Corinthus, there was, it is admitted, little left. The existence of the city in the Middle Ages, the misery and repeated plundering, which culminated in the disastrous domination of the Turks, and finally the frequent earthquakes, all contributed gradually to destroy the relics of antiquity. The well-known ruins of an old Dorian temple with monolith pillars and the remains of the amphitheatre outside the old city were the only remnants of early date. But the old ruins were hardly in better preservation at the end of the seven-teenth and beginning of the eighteenth cen-tury, as we gather from the official records of the Venetian archives. Only the amphitheatre was in comparatively better preserva-tion than at present, as can be seen from the report which Francesco Grimani, "Provveditor General dell' armi in Regno," sent from Corinth to the Senate on September 25th, 1700, in which he proposed to employ the old amphitheatre as a lazaretto for the plague then prevalent in the district. This report, together with the accompanying drawing, was published in 1877 in the Mitheilungen des k. deutschen archäolog. Inst. Meanwhile, as the newcity occupied the site of old Corinth, more extended excavations, with the view of bringing to light the existing relics, were not to be thought of. But after an earthquake in 1857 had completely destroyed old Corinth, new Corinth by a law of May 22nd in the same year was built 6 kilo-mètres to the north-east of the old city, and old Corinth was gradually transformed into a decaying village, which at the last census in 1889 only numbered 883 inhabitants. desertion gave a much freer hand to the advocates of systematic excavation. Such investi-gations have now been undertaken by the American School here, under the direction of Prof. Rufus Richardson, and the first results were important enough to encourage wider

It goes without saying that Pausanias here, as in all such cases, is the best guide to the scrutiny of the old ground, although his topographical description is not sufficiently clear. Pausanias starts from Cenchreæ, the harbour in the Saronic Gulf, proceeds along the road to Corinth, glances at the monuments there, and then describes the group of temples situated in the market. Then he follows the street which leads to the other harbour, Lechæum, on the Corinthian Gulf, and mentions also other monuments which were in any way connected with those to be found in this direction, but otherwise scattered about the city. Lastly, he gives a long description of the extant monuments, following the road that leads from the market to Sicyon, and passes the temple of Minerva Chalinitis and the group of monuments which are near it on his way to the Acro-corinthus. Keeping this route of Pausanias properly in mind, we see clearly that, with the exception of the monuments scattered about the city, which our guide only mentions casually and out of their place in his walk through the Lechæum Street, all the rest are described in groups. One succeeds another; we need only fix the chief directions and find some of the chief remnants to reconstruct the whole plan of the ground and discover all the monuments, if they are still in existence. When, therefore, the Ameri-

can spade hit on the theatre at the first attempt the discovery was important. This theatre has been excavated to the depth of 22 ft. The discovery, of which there are at present only few details to hand, is not only interesting in itself, but will serve to divulge the other build-ings, which still lie underground and undiscovered. It is noticeable that merely the stone supports of the rows of seats survive from Greek times, and a Roman theatre of later date has been built on the same site. With this discovery, however, are connected two others, which will give secure indications for further With this excavation. A Greek portico 100 ft. long has been discovered, and at a depth of about 7 mètres a carefully plastered street has been laid open for about 17 mètres. A number of very deep springs were discovered at the same time. Among the antiquities of importance discovered is a large vase of burnt earth, which has been put together out of several pieces.

The results up to now belong only to the excavations which have been made. Negotiations between the American School and the Greek Government have ended in an arrangement to buy the fields and hand them over to the archæologists, who will make a systematic and regular excavation. The agreement as to the contents will be that of the French Government concerning Delphi. In accordance with the terms of this convention the ground will, in a short time from the present day, be purchased, and the excavations again begun. I hope that the indefatigable American investigators, both by the publication of their present results and a speedy extension of their present results and a speedy extension of the range of their fortunate finds, will increase the store of our knowledge of the topography and monuments of Corinth. In my next letter I shall deal with the excavations at Thera and Melos.

SPYR. P. LAMBROS.

### fine-Art Gossig.

THE private view of the Winter Exhibition of the Royal Academy, consisting exclusively of works by Lord Leighton, is appointed for to-day (Saturday); the public will be admitted on Monday next.

The admirers of W. J. Müller and others who, though displeased by the mannerisms of his painting, yet enjoy the brightness of his effects, the sparkle of his coloration, and the extreme cleverness of his composition, to say nothing of his distinction as the finest of the scenic landscapists of our time, will be gratified by a visit or two to the Corpora-tion Art Gallery at Birmingham, in which nearly two hundred of Müller's productions of all sorts and subjects have been collected. They comprise, with hardly an exception, the most attractive, characteristic, and popular of the painter's works. The illustrated catalogue of them is, in its way, a desirable possession.

A MARBLE bust of the Very Rev. Joseph Hirst is to be placed, as a memorial of that distinguished archæologist, in the library of Ratcliffe College, Leicester, of which he was president. The Ratcliffian Association has given 50% towards the expense; the new Bishop of London, Earl Percy, Lord Arundell of Wardour, Lord Gerard, Mr. E. Bellasis (Lancaster Herald), and Mr. Hellier Gosselin have also contributed. Subscriptions may be sent to the Rev. A. Emery at the College.

THE Landscape Exhibition of the current season in the Dudley Gallery comprises works by Messrs. R. W. Allan, J. S. Hill, H. McLachlan, A. D. Peppercorn, L. Thomson, and E. A. Waterlow.

WE regret to learn that there has been risk of the destruction of the beauty of that very fine house, the British Embassy in the Faubourg St. Honoré, Paris, by the raising of the roofs of the wings en-avant-corps on either side of the gate, for the purpose of putting an additional and

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the nal story above the present chancellerie, and one to match it on the other side of the court. More room is said to be needed; but, if so, it would be wise to gain it by boarding-out the consulate rather than by adding a story to buildings which will not, architecturally speaking, bear an increase of height. If the intention to spoil the Embassy be not abandoned, attention will be called to the matter in Parliament on the vote for diplomatic buildings and on that for the salary of the Chief Commissioner of Works.

Numerous and urgent complaints having been made of the essay which precedes the catalogue of the current exhibition of the Society of Painters in Water Colours, the Committee has withdrawn it from circulation.

The Swiss papers record the death of Prof. Ernst Gladbach, of Zurich, on December 26th, in his eighty-fourth year. He was born at Darmstadt, and was Hessian State architect from 1840 to 1857, when he was called to the Chair of Architecture in Zurich, which he held until his retirement in 1890. He is known for his writings on the history and construction of buildings in wood, especially by his 'Holzarchitektur der Schweiz,' which has passed through two edition).

La Chronique des Arts announces that the Paris Salon will be opened this year, for the last time in the Champs Élysées, on April 20th instead of May 1st. It will be closed on June 8th. Pictures intended for this Salon must be delivered at the Palais de l'Industrie between March 5th and 10th, sculpture between the 23rd and 27th, and architectural works on the 28th or 29th.

### MUSIC

Life and Letters of Sir Charles Hallé. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

This extremely interesting volume is edited by the late musician's son Mr. C. E. Halle and his daughter Miss Marie Halle, these members of his family acknowledging their indebtedness to Mr. C. L. Graves for valuable and sympathetic assistance. It may safely be said that Sir Charles Halle and Mr. August Manns have done more for music in this country during the past thirty or forty years than any other foreigners who have taken up their residence in England. The present volume begins with an autobiography, which, however, ends with 1865, after which the son takes up the record of the father's life, and ends it with tenderness and reverence. Karl Halle was born on Easter morning, April 11th, 1819, and he says that, curiously enough, Easter Day fell every eleven years on April 11th until he was fifty-five years old. Halle has much to say concerning the eminent musicians he met in Paris in his early years, among them being Spohr, Chopin, Liszt, Cherubini, Thalberg, Stephen Heller, Wagner, Berlioz, and many others of lesser note. Referring to Berlioz, he says :-

"There never lived a musician who adored his art more than did Berlioz; he was, indeed, enthusiasm personified. To hear him speak about, or rave about, a real chef-d'œuvre such as 'Ermida,' 'Iphigenia,' or the c minor Symphony was worth any performance of the same. And what a picture he was at the head of his orchestra, with his eagle face, his bushy hair, his air of command, and glowing with enthusiasm. He was the most perfect conductor that I ever set eyes upon, one who held absolute sway over his troops, and played upon them as a pianist upon the key-board."

In 1839 Stephen Heller brought to Halle's rooms in Paris a young musician named Richard Wagner:—

"We all liked him as a frank, amiable, and lively companion, modest and full of enthusiasm for all that is beautiful in art. In 1876, when I met him at Bayreuth, his first words alluded to the pleasant evenings with Heller at my rooms in Paris! What a difference there was between the man of 1839 and the man of 1876!"

The number eleven was as significant for Halle as that of thirteen was for Wagner, for he married his first wife, née Désirée Smith de Rilieu, on November 11th, 1841. In 1847 he started "concerts de musique de chambre," never before attempted in Paris; but in the following year the Revolution broke out, his pupils, save one, disappeared, and the master had to think what could be done for himself, his wife, and two small children. The scene is described briefly, but graphically, and also the wrench that he endured in leaving his beloved Paris for England in March, 1848. He says that he was far from anticipating that he would eventually feel at home in England, and be proud to become one of her citizens, and play a humble, but not unimportant part in the development of her musical taste. What great benefit Halle showered on music here there is no need to insist upon, but he is in error in saying that no record could be found of the complete performance of a Beethoven sonata in London prior to 1848. Mr. Deakin, of Birmingham, one of the most erudite of musical critics, has effectually refuted this statement, though it may have been true concerning the late John Ella's Musical Union, a group of small pianoforte pieces being, as a rule, placed at the end of the programmes. At first the stranger's pathway was hard, but gradually Halle made his way, and his account of his first experiences in Manchester, and the state of music in the centre of the cotton industry when he went there, is very amusing. Eventually, in 1858, the celebrated orchestral concerts were started, and though the outcome at first was very discouraging, appreciation gradually increased, and the Halle orchestra came into request all over the country, except in London, where efforts to establish it in favour did not win the success they deserved. This may have been partly because the conductor's beat. though by no means wanting in vigour, was too firm and rigid, so that his perfectly drilled force gave the listener the idea of military precision rather than of individual force and energy. His en-deavours to popularize Beethoven's sonatas met with no want of encouragement. Not only were recitals of the entire series given year after year, first at the Hanover Square Rooms, and subsequently at St. James's Hall, but he issued an edition of these immortal works superior in note accuracy and fingering to any that had previously appeared in England, and his chamber concerts were also of the highest value from an educational point of view. Earnest as he was in the interest of what he thought was right in musical art, he was wonderfully genial as a man, abundant testimony as to this being afforded in the present volume.

Mr. Charles E. Halle speaks lovingly of his father's enormous capacity for work, his fondness for animals, his religion as a Roman Catholic, and his political opinions as a staunch Conservative, though he had a fixed repugnance for the polling booth, which he associated with the jury box, to which he was, fortunately, summoned but once in his life. He was wont, nevertheless, to say—of course in jest—that nothing would please him better than to be imprisoned as a first-class misdemeanant with a quantity of books which he never could find time to study while at large, and with access to a piano. More than two hundred pages are occupied by the letters, which are excellent reading, though they do not include the correspondence with Lady Halle, as this is to form the subject of a second volume.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY OF MUSICIANS.

The Twelfth Annual Conference of this Association, which seems to be steadily growing in influence for good in the art, was held at Cardiff during the past week, in the Park Hall. At the first meeting on Tuesday the secretary, Mr. E. Chadfield, read the report, which showed that the membership had undergone a steady increase, and that the income was considerably in excess of the expenditure. Mr. W. H. Cummings read a thoughtfully written paper on 'Musicial Ethics.' He contended that teachers should, if possible, confine themselves to one speciality, though in rural districts this was, of course, not always possible. He earnestly advised young musicians to avoid bogus and shady institutions, of which there were unhappily too many, and not to pay for sham titles and degrees, whether of home or foreign manufacture. Mr. Cummings also advocated general mental and physical culture, as tending to add immensely to the value of a man's musical work. In the afternoon Mr. John Thomas, the well-known harpist, read a paper on Welsh music.

On Wednesday morning the Conference was continued, Dr. Bunnett, of Norwich, reading a paper entitled 'Reminiscences of Cathedral Life during the Last Half Century.' He confined himself to Norwich. Some amusement was occasioned by the narration of the various methods by which, in past times, boys were made to open their mouths when singing. Nuts were placed between their teeth, but, as the boys promptly cracked and ate them, marbles were substituted. Spohr was so delighted with the solo singing in 1839 that he began to applaud, but soon discovered his mistake. Everything was done to make the lads good solo singers, and their general education was sadly neglected, which, of course, is not so at the present time. Dr. Bunnett maintained that the cathedral school was a fine training for a young musician, and gave many examples. Dr. C. W. Pearce subsequently read a paper on 'Free Counterpoint.' Of the remainder of the business pro-

ceedings we must speak next week.

#### Musical Gossip.

As already announced, the triennial Handel Festival at the Crystal Palace this year will be held somewhat earlier in June than usual, namely, on the 11th, 14th, 16th, and 18th of that month. The principal artists engaged are Mesdames Albani, Ella Russell, Clara Samuell, Nordica, Marian McKenzie, and Clara Butt, and Messrs. Lloyd, Santley, and Andrew Black.

The concerts at the Queen's Hall on Christmas Day and last Sunday afford eloquent testimony to the rapidly growing taste of the general public for good music. 'The Messiah' attracted a very large audience on Christmas afternoon, and in the evening there was a fairly large assemblage at the concert of sacred music. The afternoon concert on Saturday partook more

of the nature of a ballad programme, but there were several items in the programme not un-worthy of the attention of musical amateurs; and the evening Promenade Concert was of the same character as usual, including Wagner's overtures to 'Tannhäuser' and 'Die Meistersinger'; Grieg's 'Peer Gynt' Suite, No. 1; Gounod's 'Hymne à St. Cécile,' for violin, harp, and organ; and Liszt's 'Hungarian' Rhapsody, Such musical entertainments, given at a time when the art in its loftiest phases was formerly allowed to rest, may be regarded as a sign of the times.

WE are much pleased to learn that the directors of the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company have arranged with Mr. H. T. Brickwell to give a short season of grand opera at the Garrick Theatre, commencing on Monday, the

THE programme of the first Popular Concert THE programme of the first Popular Concert of this year, that on Monday next, includes Tschaïkowsky's very fine Pianoforte Trio in A minor, inscribed "To the Memory of a Hero." This work, which is rarely performed, is worthy to compare with the Russian composer's 'Symphonie Pathétique.'

Mr. MARCUS ALFRED SMYTHSON, for many years chorus-master of the Italian opera under Sir Michael Costa, both at Her Majesty's and Covent Garden Theatres, died on Christmas Day, at the ripe age of seventy-nine. He fulfilled similar duties under the Pyne and Harrison management, and for a time under the Carl

Rosa Company. The deceased musician was well qualified for his task, and was generally esteemed in the profession.

THE Weimar Goethe-Gesellschaft has just presented a handsome Christmas gift to its members in the shape of a publication entitled 'Gedichte von Goethe in Compositionen seiner Zeitgenossen.' The collection, undertaken at the suggestion of Prof. Erich Schmidt, is prefaced by a short introduction from the pen of Hofrath Dr. Suphan, editor of the 'Schriften der Goethe-Gesellschaft,' and the musical part has been edited with preface and notes by the musical writer Dr. Max Friedlaender. The volume, issued with the assistance of Dr. C. Ruland, contains the compositions of Beethoven, Mozart, Reichardt, Schubert, Zelter, &c., and ought to be more widely known than among the limited circle of the members of the Goethe Society.

PERFORMANCES NEXT WEEK. Orchestral Concert, 3.30, Queen's Hall.
National Sunday League, 7, Queen's Hall.
Queen's Hall String Quartet Concert, 7.30, Queen's Small
Hall.
Popular Concert, 8, St. James's Wall

#### DRAMA

#### THE WEEK.

OLYMPIC.—'The Pilgrim's Progress,' a Mystery Play in Four Acts. Founded on John Bunyan's Immortal Allegory. By G. G. Collingham.

ADELPHI.—'All that Glitters is not Gold'; 'Black-Eyed Susan.'

MR. COLLINGHAM might have spared John Bunyan the humiliation of having his name associated with the operatic and spectacular burlesque given under the title of 'The Pilgrim's Progress.' No worse fault is to be found with the play, apart from the title assigned to it, than that it is inept and dull. With a widely different inter-pretation it might even have passed muster, since it is no whit sillier than a score pieces which have done much of late to fill managerial pockets. In spite, however, of the ecclesiastical incense in which a not widely dissimilar production has recently been steeped, it is a mistake to blend religious symbolism with terpsichorean revels.

Especially unfair and disloyal is it to couple the name of one of the most zealous of Puritans with a species of entertainment that he would have regarded with horror and dismay. What greater abomination could Bunyan have conceived than to see his own allegorical personages masquerading with painted faces upon a booth at Vanity Fair? This species of outrage (for as such Bunyan must have counted it) is the more regrettable since it is purely gratuitous and superfluous. Except that the names of Bunyan's characters are preserved there is really nothing of Bunyan in the piece. With a view possibly of placating the censure, religious phraseology is avoided, and except the wearing by Christian of a red cross such as might be assigned a Crusader or a nurse, there is nothing to tell that the pilgrimage undertaken is from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City. much more verisimilitude might the whole be treated as a recovered episode of the 'Morte d'Arthur.' Bunyan's hero is a man such as himself, of homely condition, oppressed with the burden of sin and flying from the wrath to come. In place of the City of Destruction we have now the Castle Joyous, in which Christian is a prince ostentatious and lavish. No burden of transgression rests on his shoulders. He starts in rich armour to go on what, though beset with dangers, is a pleasure trip; and while leaving behind him a mistress fair and princely, he indulges in all sorts of vulgar orgies. No sooner does Apollyon present himself than he is willing to take service with him, and the fiend has to be indiscreetly confidential concerning his occupations and designs to prevent him from becoming his lieutenant. The sorceries of Melusina ensnare at once his senses. The wine-cup is drained so soon as it is offered, and the painted Jezebels of Vanity Fair find him a willing captive. He is, indeed, as Byron said of himself,

as helpless as the devil can wish, And not a whit more difficult to damn Than is to bring to land a late-hooked fish.

This may do for Rinaldo in the garden of Armida, but to present him as Bunyan's Christian is an insult to common sense as well as literature. That Mr. Collingham has been cramped in his effort by the fear of employing Biblical language is conceivable enough. He had better have left alone a theme necessarily and obviously intractable and employed his machinery to illustrate some tale of fairy damsels and knights of Logres or of Lyonesse. His subordinate characters are of no more vitality. Death is introduced to do nothing whatever but confront for a moment Apollyon, or tell those he meets that he has no immediate occasion for them. Malignity, a species of witch, comes on for the purpose of scolding the robbers of the highway, armed with clubs, to pilfer cheese from a wench's market-basket. Nothing whatever that is done has either interest or significance, and the whole is a simple spectacle with pleasing music and lovely dresses symbolical of nothing at all. Miss Grace Hawthorne, who played Christian, mistook her powers. She smiled affably at the personages, human, celestial, or diabolical, with whom she came into contact, and was "as meek and patient as a gentle stream." Mr. Abingdon assigned some character to Apollyon, and Miss Laura Johnson declaimed with pas-sionate vehemence as Malignity. The whole, however, claims little credit except as a

On being once more dragged to light 'All that Glitters is not Gold,' by the Mortons, proves to be entirely out of date. The same cannot quite be said of Jerrold's nautical drama, now compressed into two acts. It has a certain breeziness and vivacity. Th acting of Mr. Terriss as William commended it to the public. It obtained, however, littly more than a success of curiosity, and is not likely long to uphold the fortunes of the

### Dramatic Gossiy.

THE Drury Lane pantomime of 'Aladdin' isvery pretty, has some delightful effects, and is quite free from vulgarity. It will shortly be humorous, but was not so at the outset. Miss Ada Blanche as Aladdin, Miss Decima Moore as the Princes, Mr. Dan Leno as Mrs. Twankay, and Mr. Herbert Campbell as Abanazar had the most prominent parts. Some conjuring performances by M. Cinquevalli were quite marvellous. An aërial troupe constituted a very attractive feature. In a day or two the entertainment will probably repay a visit.

THE improvement in the condition of Sir Henry Irving reported from the outset is maintained, but no date for the actor's re-

appearance is announced.

'CYMBELINE' was revived on Saturday last at the Lyceum, with Miss Julia Arthur as Imogen, Mr. Frank Cooper as Posthumus, Imogen, Mr. Frank Cooper as Posthumus, Mr. H. Cooper Cliffe as Iachimo, and Miss Geneviève Ward as the Queen.

'THE KEY TO KING SOLOMON'S RICHES (LIMITED),' produced on Christmas Eve at the Opéra Comique, is a melodrama of the most conventional and commonplace kind, to which some scenes in Matabeleland fail to assign any novelty or significance. Miss Abbey St. Ruth, the author, took part in an interpretation no-wise more remarkable than the piece.

On Tuesday 'Betsy,' Mr. Burnand's adaptation of 'Bébé,' by MM. Hennequin and de Najac, first produced at the Criterion in August, 1879, was revived at the same house, with Miss Annie Hughes in place of Miss Lottie Venne as the seductive heroine. Mr. Welch is now the tutor.

'LOVE IN IDLENESS,' originally given a few weeks ago at Terry's Theatre, has now been revived as an afternoon entertainment at the same house, with Mr. Terry in his original part of Mortimer Pendlebury, and with Mr. Farquhar, Mr. Sydney Brough, Mr. De Lange, Miss Beatrice Ferrar, and Miss Bella Pateman still in the cast.

WITH this piece is given 'Holly Tree Inn,' an adaptation by Mrs. Oscar Beringer of Dickens's adaptation by Mrs. Oscar Beringer of Dickens's tale. The version is cleverly made, and though the proceedings of the juvenile lovers who paredy the ways of their elders and elope to Gretna Green with their pockets stuffed with lollipops inspire no great measure of admiration or conviction, the whole goes with spirit, and constitutes an acceptable holiday entertainment. Miss Beatrice Ferrar, Mr. Sydney Brough, and Mr. George Belmore take part in the performance. The action is placed in the year 1820, and the costume of the time adds to the attractions of the play.

A New comedy, in which Mr. Charles Collette

A NEW comedy, in which Mr. Charles Collette will reappear in London, is promised for the 18th inst. at the Strand Theatre.

To Correspondents. — F. D.—J. H.—P. D.—E. H. B.—L. S.—T. C.—H. C. B.—R. D. G.—received. No notice can be taken of anonymous communications.

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